SATOSHI KON'S

OPUS

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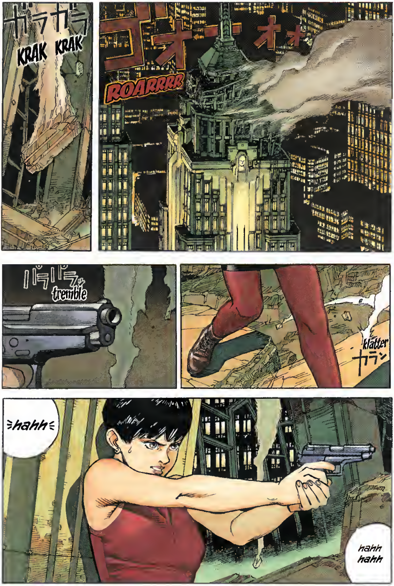
OPUS

STORY AND ART BY SATOSHI KON

DARK HORSE MANGA

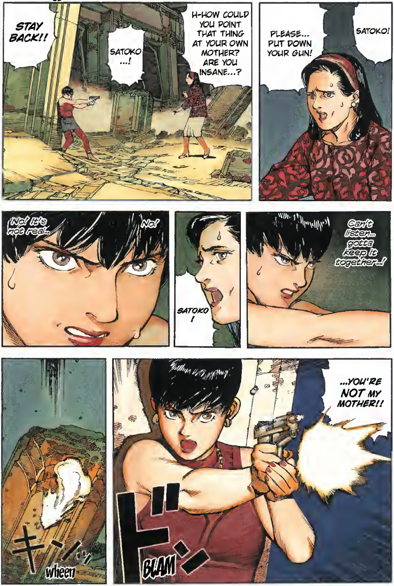
RESONANCE


ガラガラ
KRAK KRAK
ゴオーオォ
ROARRRR
パラパラッ
tremble
klatter
カラン
≋hahh≋
hahh hahh

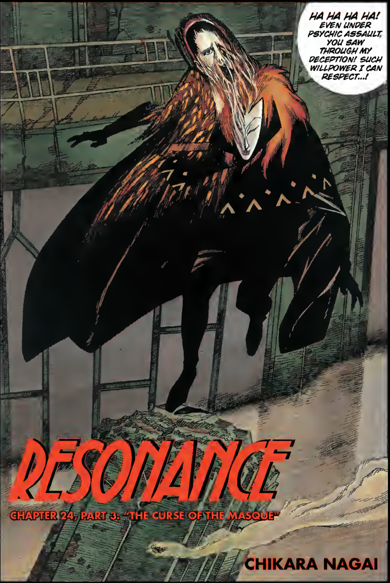
AT THE END OF A LONG HUNT FOR THE MYSTERIOUS CULT LEADER KNOWN AS "THE MASQUE," SATOKO CONFRONTS . . . HER MOTHER?!

ヤング ガード
Young Guard

THE STORY THUS FAR On the trail of a series of inexplicable disappearances, Special Investigations Unit agent Satoko uncovered a conspiracy that linked a new virtual drug on the streets to an enigmatic cult known as the "Nameless Faith" that is distributing the drug to implant subliminal messages in the populace! With the psychic gang leader Lin as her ally, Satoko attempted to take down the cult, only to find they have control over politicians, her fellow cops, and even her family! Satoko must go it alone, and she plans to make this fight one on one with the leader of the Nameless Faith, known as the Masque!


STAY BACK!!
SATOKO ...!
H-HOW COULD YOU POINT THAT THING AT YOUR OWN MOTHER? ARE YOU INSANE...?
SATOKO!
PLEASE... PUT DOWN YOUR GUN!
No! It's not real...
No!
SATOKO!
Can't listen... gotta keep it together...!
...YOU'RE NOT MY MOTHER!!
wheeen
BLAM

✪ HYPER-PSYCHO NEAR-FUTURE ACTION ✪


HA HA HA HA! EVEN UNDER PSYCHIC ASSAULT, YOU SAW THROUGH MY DECEPTION! SUCH WILLPOWER I CAN RESPECT...!

RESONANCE

CHAPTER 24, PART 3: "THE CURSE OF THE MASQUE"

CHIKARA NAGAI

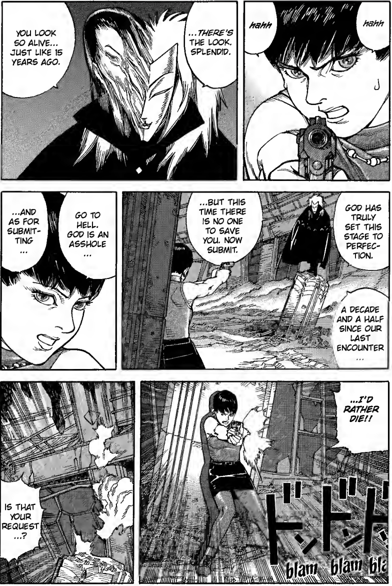
THE IMMORTAL MONSTER CALLED THE MASQUE! NO ONE KNOWS HIS TRUE FORM!!

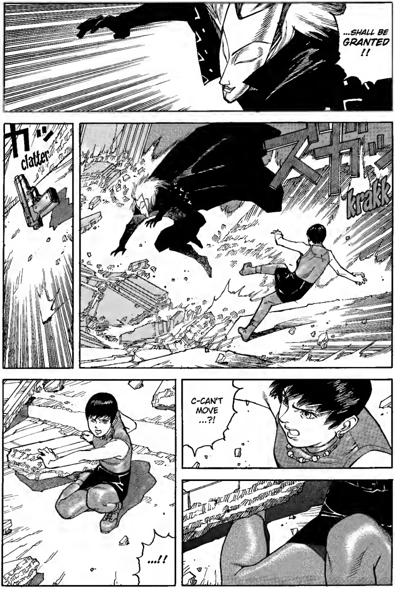
SATOKO MIURA Heroine of the story. A rookie investigator with telepathic powers.

LIN Gang leader from the foreign quarter. His psychic powers far exceed Satoko's.

MEI Lin's younger sister. Blind, but blessed with the gift of second sight . . .

THE MASQUE Founder and leader of the "Nameless Faith" cult. Uses psychics as his tools to brainwash others into joining the cult.


hahh
hahh
...THERE'S THE LOOK. SPLENDID.
YOU LOOK SO ALIVE... JUST LIKE 15 YEARS AGO.
GOD HAS TRULY SET THIS STAGE TO PERFECTION.
A DECADE AND A HALF SINCE OUR LAST ENCOUNTER...
...BUT THIS TIME THERE IS NO ONE TO SAVE YOU. NOW SUBMIT.
GO TO HELL. GOD IS AN ASSHOLE...
...AND AS FOR SUBMITTING...
...I'D RATHER DIE!!
ドドド
blam blam bla
IS THAT YOUR REQUEST...?


...SHALL BE GRANTED !!
ズガッ
krakk
カッ
clatter
C-CAN'T MOVE ...?!
...!!

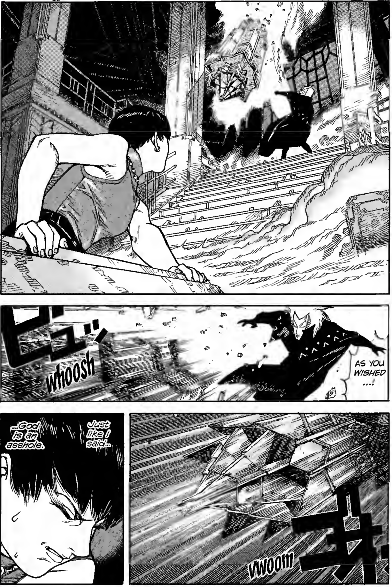
◆Please let us know what you think about this manga! Write to: ATTN: RESONANCE, c/o Young Guard Editorial Department, Box 145, Big Port Ward, Liar's Town, Tokyo◆

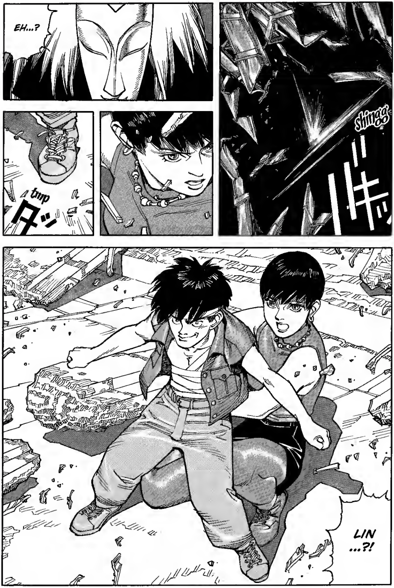
Young Guard

YOUNG GUARD COMICS

RESONANCE VOLS. 1–8 BY CHIKARA NAGAI

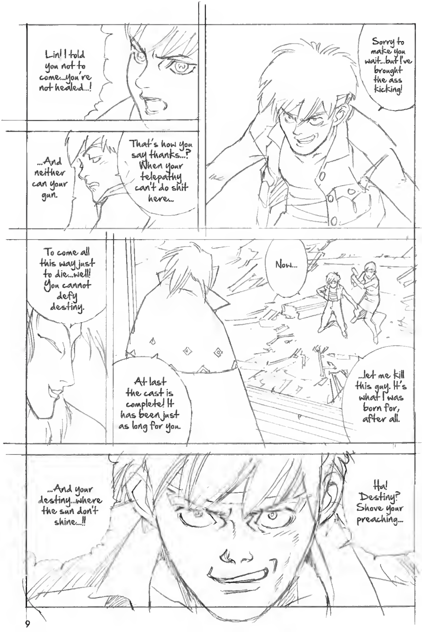
ON SALE NOW!!


AS YOU WISHED ...!
ビュ
whoosh
vwoom
Just like I said...
...God is an asshole.

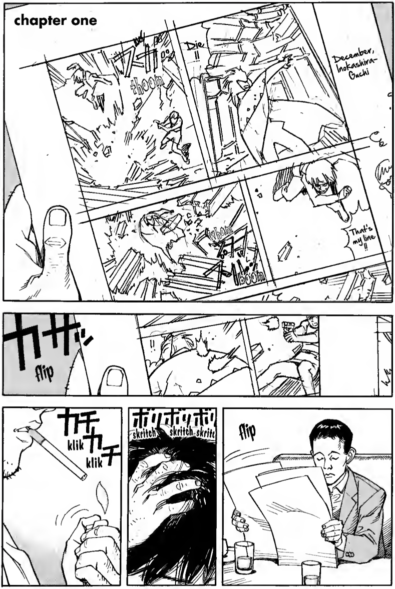

EH...?
tmp
タッ
shingg
バキッ
LIN ...?!

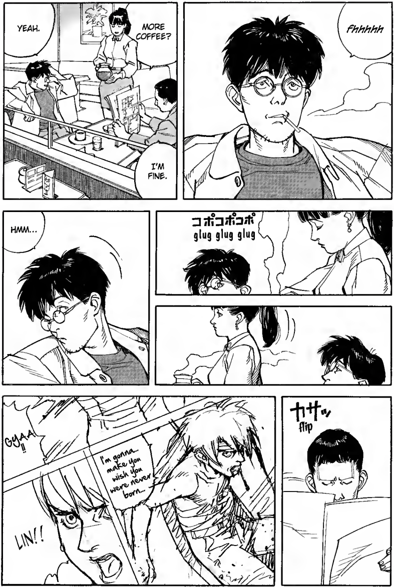
LIN STANDS BETWEEN A WOUNDED SATOKO AND THE MASQUE . . . !

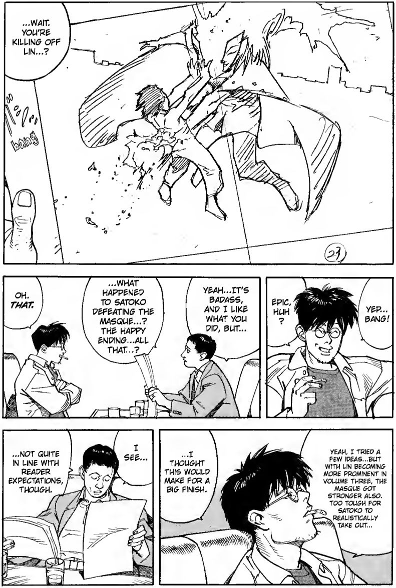
NEXT ISSUE . . . *RESONANCE*—THE CONCLUSION !!!

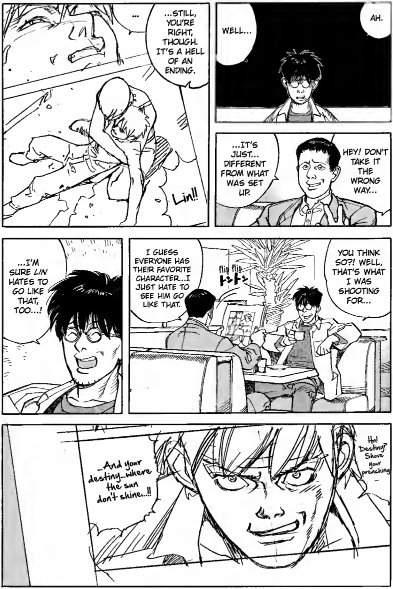

Sorry to make you wait...but I've brought the ass kicking!
Lin! I told you not to come...you're not healed...!
That's how you say thanks...? When your telepathy can't do shit here...
...And neither can your gun.
Now...
...let me kill this guy. It's what I was born for, after all.
At last the cast is complete! It has been just as long for you.
To come all this way just to die...well! You cannot defy destiny.
Ha! Destiny? Shove your preaching...
...And your destiny...where the sun don't shine...!!

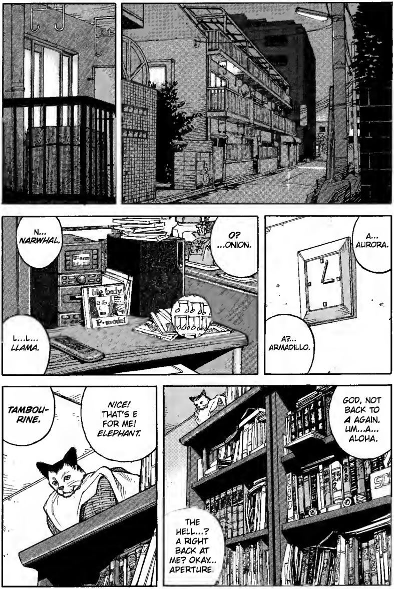
chapter one

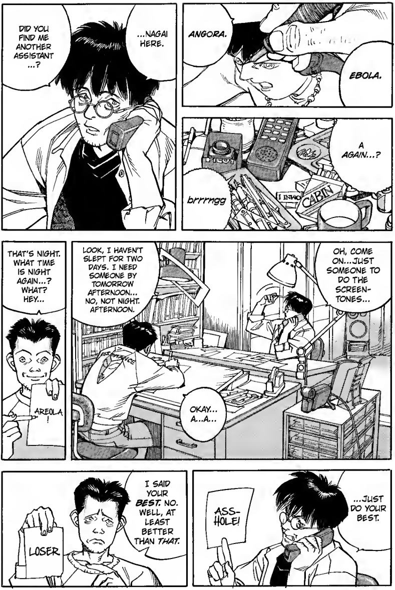

December, Inokashira-Guchi
Die !!
thoom
That's my line !!
wham
boom
カサッ
flip
!!
ボリボリボリ
skritch skritch skritc
カチ
klik
カチ
klik
flip

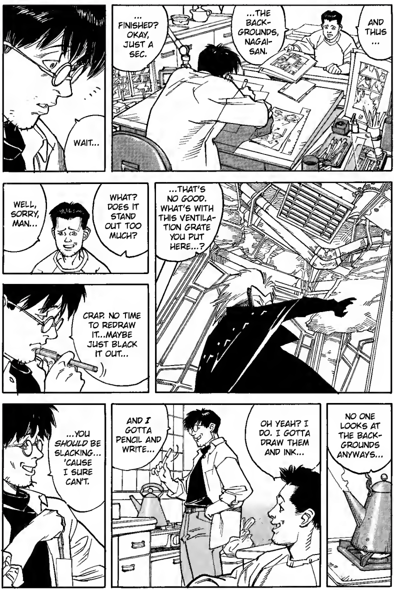

MORE COFFEE?
YEAH.
I'M FINE.
Fhhhhh
HMM...
コポコポコポ
glug glug glug
GYAA!!
I'm gonna... make you wish you were never born...
LIN!!
カサッ
flip

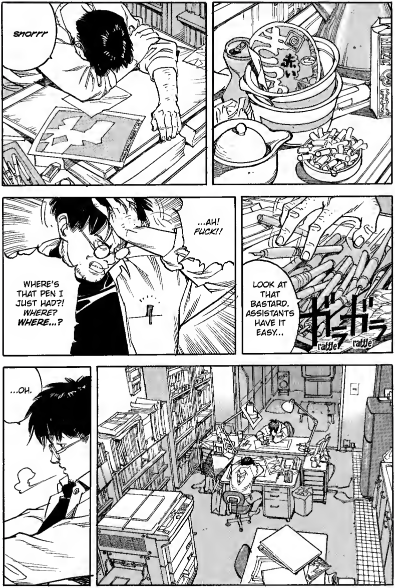

...WAIT. YOU'RE KILLING OFF LIN...?
bang
23
YEP... BANG!
EPIC, HUH?
YEAH...IT'S BADASS, AND I LIKE WHAT YOU DID, BUT...
...WHAT HAPPENED TO SATOKO DEFEATING THE MASQUE...? THE HAPPY ENDING...ALL THAT...?
OH. *THAT.*
YEAH, I TRIED A FEW IDEAS...BUT WITH LIN BECOMING MORE PROMINENT IN VOLUME THREE, THE MASQUE GOT STRONGER ALSO. TOO TOUGH FOR SATOKO TO REALISTICALLY TAKE OUT...
...I THOUGHT THIS WOULD MAKE FOR A BIG FINISH.
I SEE...
...NOT QUITE IN LINE WITH READER EXPECTATIONS, THOUGH.

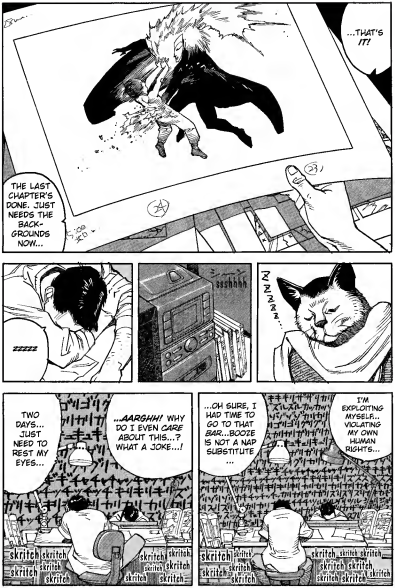

...
...STILL, YOU'RE RIGHT, THOUGH. IT'S A HELL OF AN ENDING.
Lin!!
WELL...
AH.
...IT'S JUST... DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WAS SET UP.
HEY! DON'T TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY...
...I'M SURE LIN HATES TO GO LIKE THAT, TOO...!
I GUESS EVERYONE HAS THEIR FAVORITE CHARACTER...I JUST HATE TO SEE HIM GO LIKE THAT.
flip flip
トントン
YOU THINK SO?! WELL, THAT'S WHAT I WAS SHOOTING FOR...
Ha! Destiny? Shove your preaching...
...And your destiny...where the sun don't shine...!!

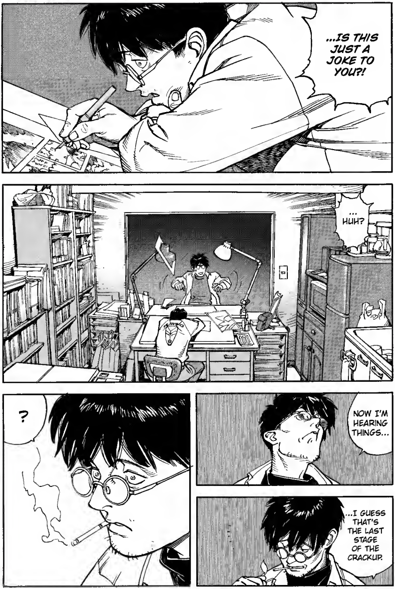

A... AURORA.
A?... ARMADILLO.
O? ...ONION.
N... NARWHAL.
L...L... LLAMA.
big body
P-model
GOD, NOT BACK TO A AGAIN. UM...A... ALOHA.
THE HELL...? A RIGHT BACK AT ME? OKAY... APERTURE.
NICE! THAT'S E FOR ME! ELEPHANT.
TAMBOURINE.

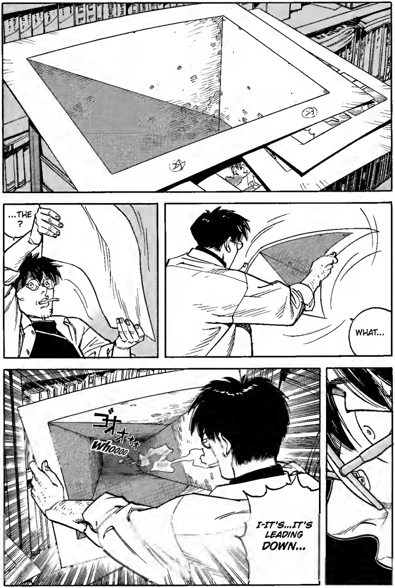

EBOLA.
ANGORA.
A AGAIN...?
brrrngg
...NAGAI HERE.
DID YOU FIND ME ANOTHER ASSISTANT ...?
OH, COME ON...JUST SOMEONE TO DO THE SCREEN-TONES...
LOOK, I HAVEN'T SLEPT FOR TWO DAYS. I NEED SOMEONE BY TOMORROW AFTERNOON... NO, NOT NIGHT. AFTERNOON.
OKAY... A...A...
THAT'S NIGHT. WHAT TIME IS NIGHT AGAIN...? WHAT? HEY...
AREOLA!
...JUST DO YOUR BEST.
ASS-HOLE!
I SAID YOUR BEST. NO. WELL, AT LEAST BETTER THAN THAT.
LOSER

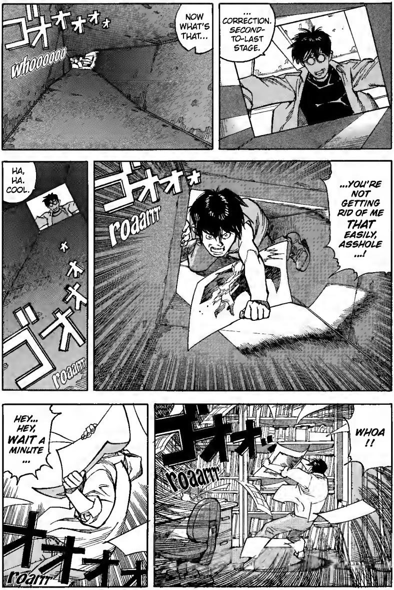

AND THUS ...
...THE BACKGROUNDS, NAGAI-SAN.
... FINISHED? OKAY, JUST A SEC.
WAIT...
...THAT'S NO GOOD. WHAT'S WITH THIS VENTILATION GRATE YOU PUT HERE...?
WHAT? DOES IT STAND OUT TOO MUCH?
WELL, SORRY, MAN...
CRAP. NO TIME TO REDRAW IT...MAYBE JUST BLACK IT OUT...
NO ONE LOOKS AT THE BACKGROUNDS ANYWAYS...
OH YEAH? I DO. I GOTTA DRAW THEM AND INK...
AND *I* GOTTA PENCIL AND WRITE...
...YOU *SHOULD* BE SLACKING... 'CAUSE I SURE CAN'T.

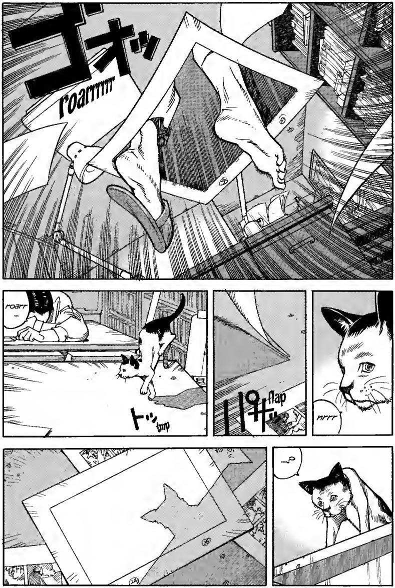

snorrr
...AH! FUCK!!
WHERE'S THAT PEN I JUST HAD?! *WHERE?* ***WHERE...?***
LOOK AT THAT BASTARD. ASSISTANTS HAVE IT EASY...
ガラガラ
rattle rattle
...OH.

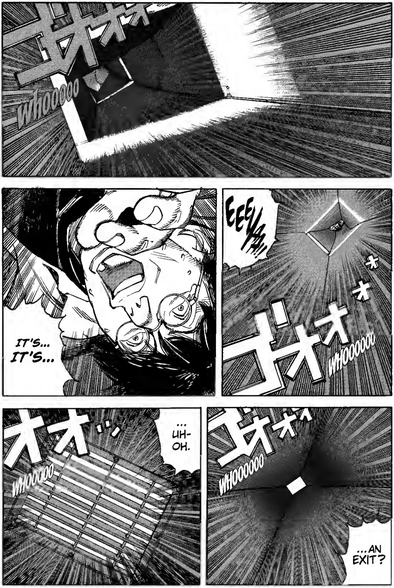

...THAT'S *IT!*
THE LAST CHAPTER'S DONE. JUST NEEDS THE BACKGROUNDS NOW...
24
23
ZZZZZ...
ssshhhh
zzzzz
I'M EXPLOITING MYSELF... VIOLATING MY OWN HUMAN RIGHTS...
...OH SURE, I HAD TIME TO GO TO THAT *BAR*...BOOZE IS NOT A NAP SUBSTITUTE...
skritch skritch skritch skritch skritch skritch
skritch skritch skritch skritch
...AARGHH! WHY DO I EVEN *CARE* ABOUT THIS...? WHAT A JOKE...!
TWO DAYS... JUST NEED TO REST MY EYES...
skritch skritch skritch skritch skritch skritch skritch skritch

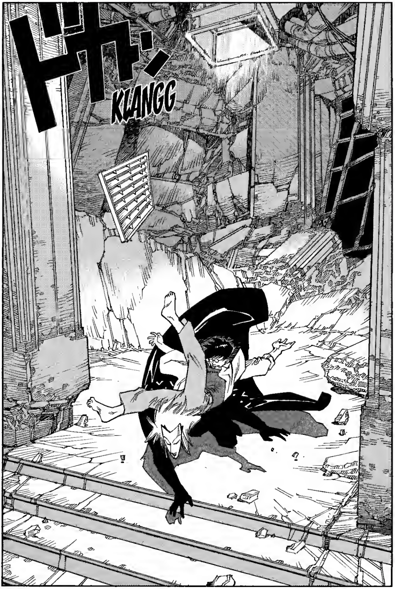

...IS THIS JUST A JOKE TO YOU?!
... HUH?
?
NOW I'M HEARING THINGS...
...I GUESS THAT'S THE LAST STAGE OF THE CRACKUP.

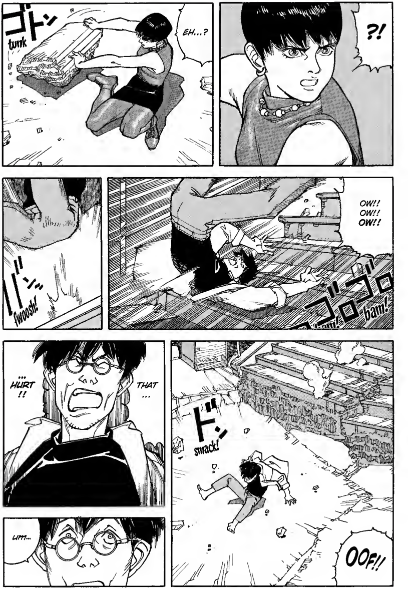

WHAT...
...THE ?
ゴオオオオ
whoooo
I-IT'S...IT'S LEADING DOWN...

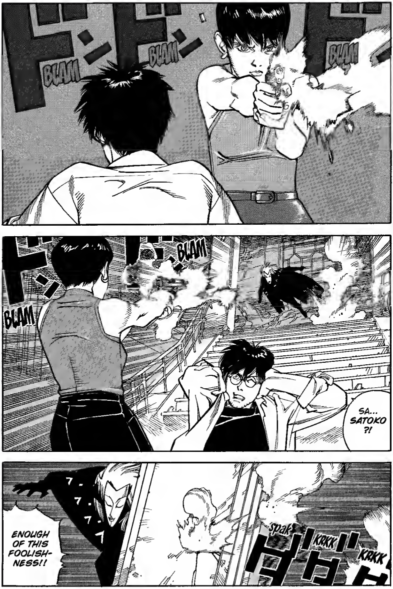

ゴオオオォ
whoooooo
NOW WHAT'S THAT...
... CORRECTION. SECOND-TO-LAST STAGE.
HA, HA. COOL.
ゴオオォ
roaarrr
...YOU'RE NOT GETTING RID OF ME THAT EASILY, ASSHOLE ...!
ゴオオォ
roaarrr
HEY... HEY, WAIT A MINUTE ...
オオオォ
roarrr
ゴオオ
roaarrr
WHOA !!

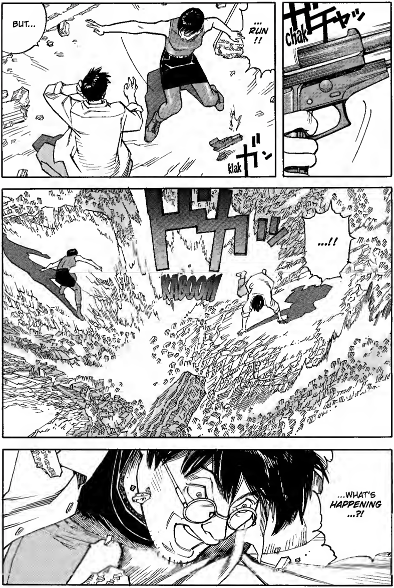

ゴオッ
roarrrrrr
nrrr
パサッ
flap
roarr
...
トッ
tmp
...?


ゴオオオ
WHOOOOO
EEEYAAH!!
ゴオオオ
WHOOOOOO
IT'S... IT'S...
ゴオオオ
WHOOOOOO
...AN EXIT?
オオッ
WHOOOOO
... UH-OH.

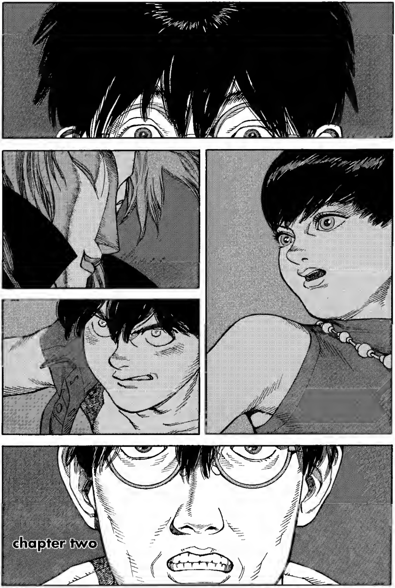

ドガッ
KLANGG


ゴトン
tunk
EH...?
?!
バンッ
fwoosh!
OW!! OW!! OW!!
ゴロゴロ
bam!
ドン
smack!
OOF!!
THAT ... HURT !!
UM...

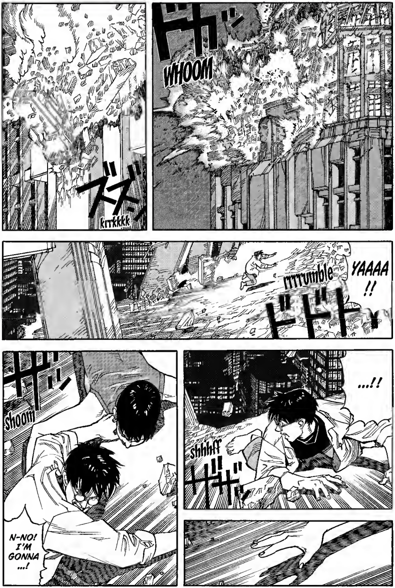

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
SA... SATOKO ?!
KRKK
KRKK
spak
ENOUGH OF THIS FOOLISHNESS!!

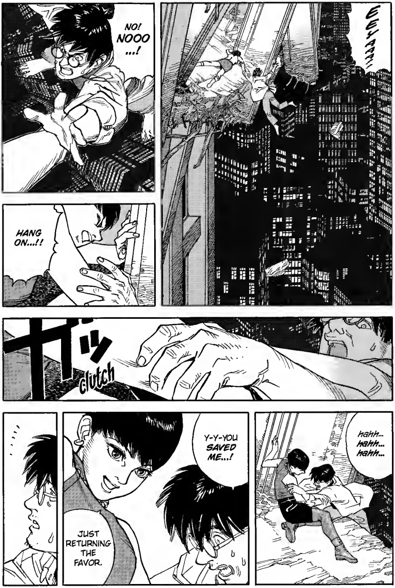

ガチャッ
chak
... RUN !!
BUT...
ガン
klak
...!!
ドガッ
KABOOM
...WHAT'S HAPPENING ...?!

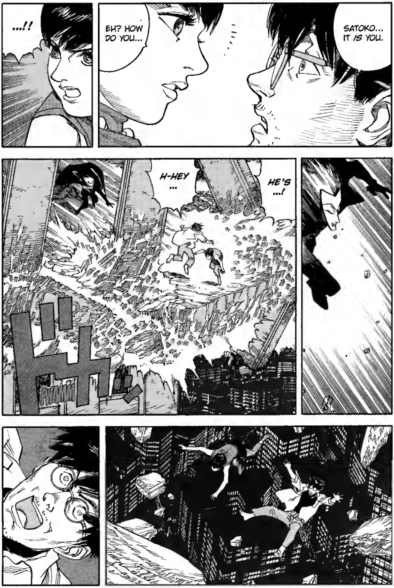
DESONANCE
opus

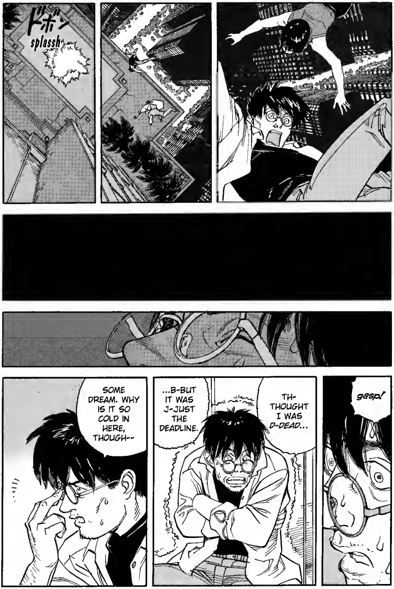


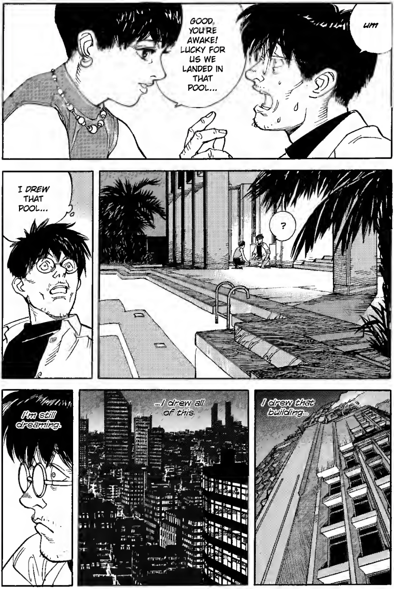
chapter two

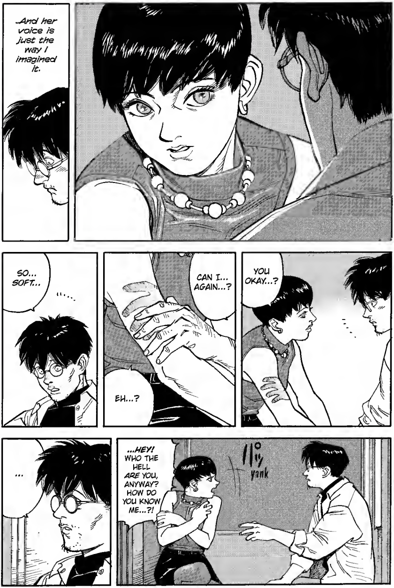

ドカン
WHOOM
ズズ
krrkkkk
YAAAA!!
rrrrumble
ドドド
...!!
shhhff
ザザ
ザザン
shoom
N-NO! I'M GONNA ...!

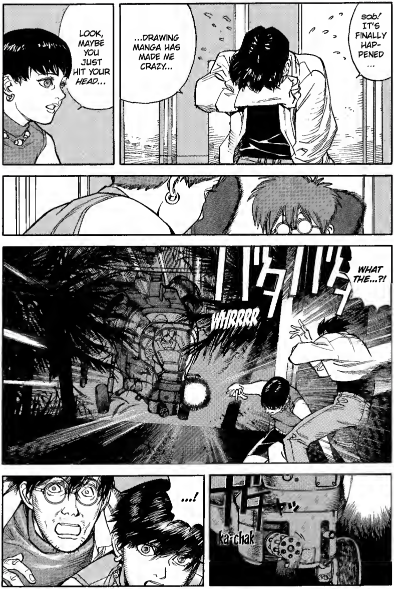

EEYAAAA!!
NO! NOOO ...!
HANG ON...!!
ガッ
clutch
hahh... hahh... hahh...
Y-Y-YOU SAVED ME...!
JUST RETURNING THE FAVOR.

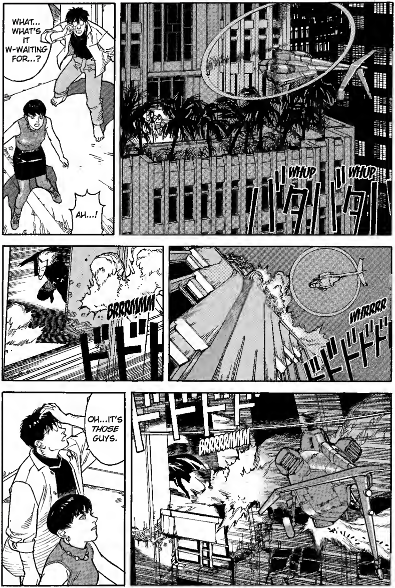

SATOKO... IT *IS* YOU.
EH? HOW DO YOU...
...!!
HE'S ...!
H-HEY ...
ドッ
PWAMM

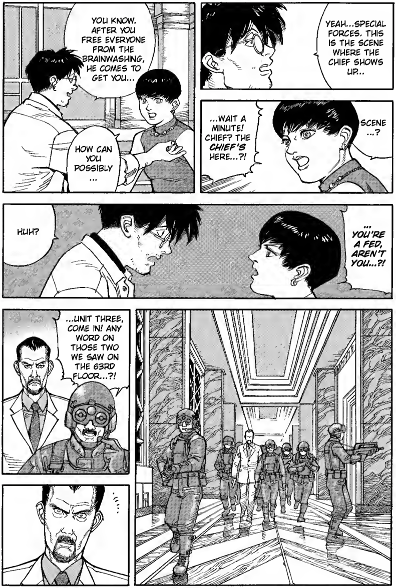

ドボン
splassh
gasp!
TH-THOUGHT I WAS D-DEAD...
...B-BUT IT WAS J-JUST THE DEADLINE.
SOME DREAM. WHY IS IT SO COLD IN HERE, THOUGH--

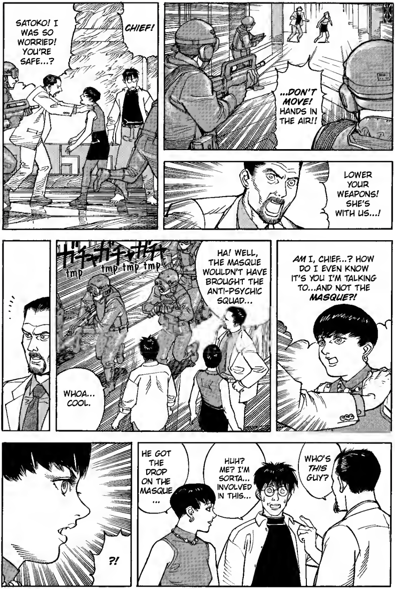

GOOD, YOU'RE AWAKE! LUCKY FOR US WE LANDED IN THAT POOL...
um
I DREW THAT POOL...
?
I'm still dreaming.
...I drew all of this.
I drew that building...

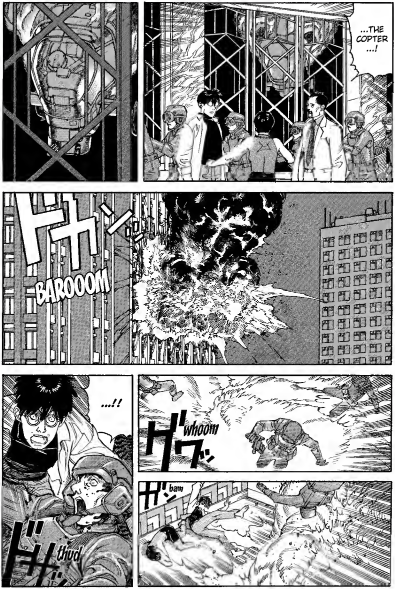

...And her voice is just the way I imagined it.
SO... SOFT...
....
CAN I... AGAIN...?
EH...?
YOU OKAY...?
...
...
...HEY! WHO THE HELL *ARE* YOU, ANYWAY? HOW DO YOU KNOW ME...?!
パッ
yank

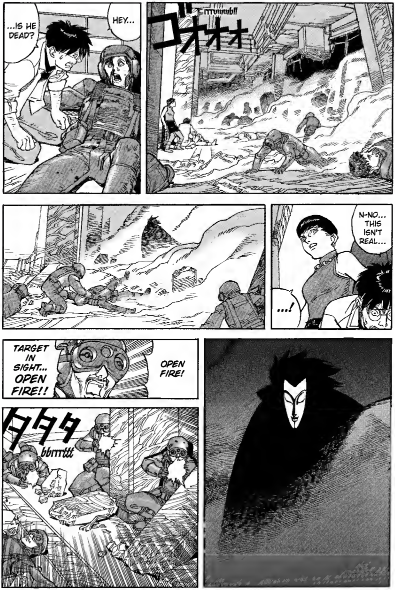

sob! IT'S FINALLY HAPPENED...
...DRAWING MANGA HAS MADE ME CRAZY...
LOOK, MAYBE YOU JUST HIT YOUR *HEAD*...
バタバタ
WHRRRR
WHAT THE...?!
ガチャッ
ka-chak
...!

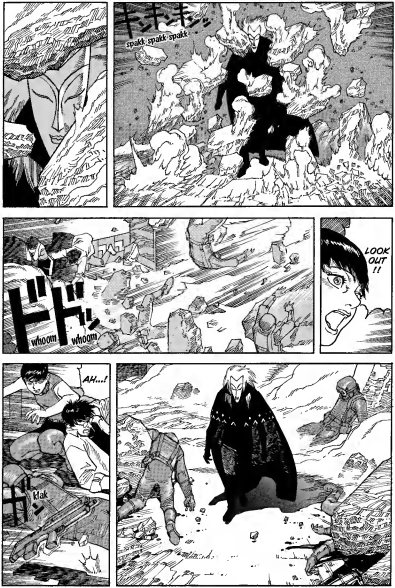

WHAT... WHAT'S IT W-WAITING FOR...?
AH...!
WHUP
バタ
WHUP
バタ
BRRRMMM
ドド
WHRRRR
ドドドド
OH...IT'S *THOSE* GUYS.
ドドドド
BRRRRMMM

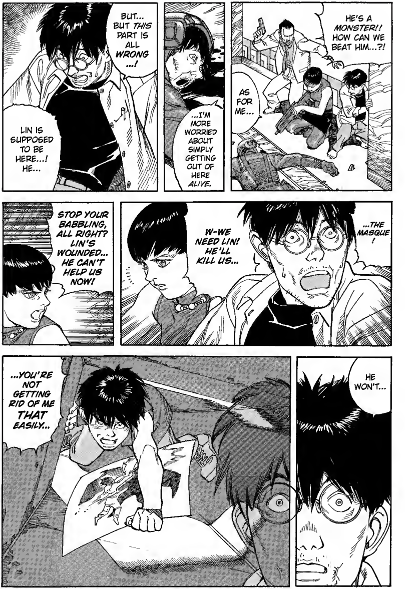

YOU KNOW. AFTER YOU FREE EVERYONE FROM THE BRAINWASHING, HE COMES TO GET YOU...
HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY ...
YEAH...SPECIAL FORCES. THIS IS THE SCENE WHERE THE CHIEF SHOWS UP...
SCENE ...?
...WAIT A MINUTE! CHIEF? THE ***CHIEF'S*** HERE...?!
HUH?
... YOU'RE A FED, AREN'T YOU...?!
...UNIT THREE, COME IN! ANY WORD ON THOSE TWO WE SAW ON THE 63RD FLOOR...?!
...

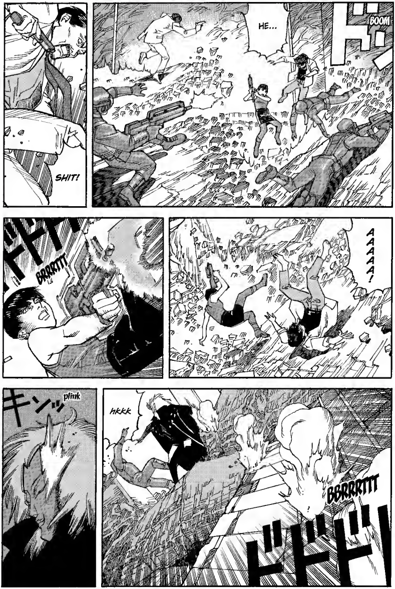

SATOKO! I WAS SO WORRIED! YOU'RE SAFE...?
CHIEF!
...DON'T MOVE! HANDS IN THE AIR!!
LOWER YOUR WEAPONS! SHE'S WITH US...!
....
ガチャガチャガチャ
tmp tmp tmp tmp
HA! WELL, THE MASQUE WOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT THE ANTI-PSYCHIC SQUAD...
WHOA... COOL.
AM I, CHIEF...? HOW DO I EVEN KNOW IT'S YOU I'M TALKING TO...AND NOT THE ***MASQUE?!***
?!
HE GOT THE DROP ON THE MASQUE...
WHO'S *THIS* GUY?
HUH? ME? I'M SORTA... INVOLVED IN THIS...

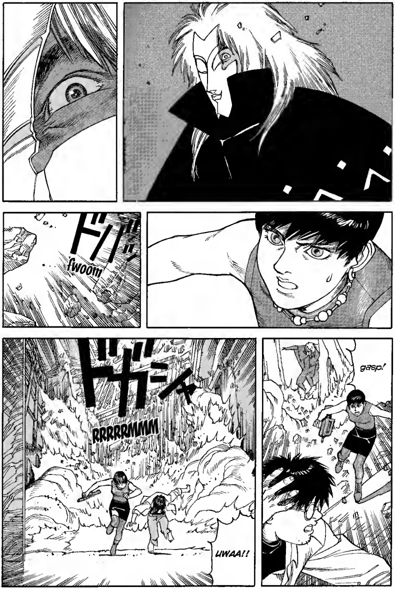

...THE COPTER ...!
ドカン
BAROOOM
...!!
ドガッ
thud
ザワッ
whoom
ガン
bam

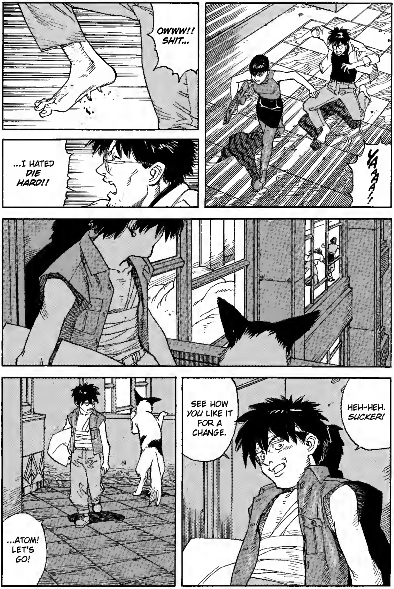

HEY...
...IS HE DEAD?
ゴオオオ
rrrummbll
N-NO... THIS ISN'T REAL...
...!
TARGET IN SIGHT... OPEN FIRE!!
OPEN FIRE!
タタタ
bbrrrttt

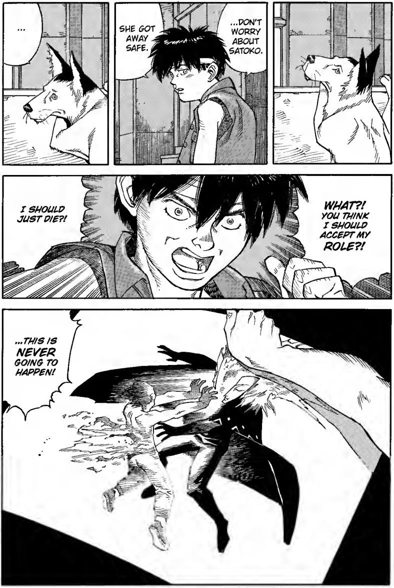

キンキンキンッ
spakk spakk spakk
LOOK OUT !!
ドドッ
whoom whoom
AH...!
ガン
klak


BUT... BUT *THIS* PART IS ALL *WRONG* ...!
LIN IS SUPPOSED TO BE HERE...! HE...
...I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT SIMPLY GETTING OUT OF HERE *ALIVE.*
HE'S A *MONSTER!!* HOW CAN WE BEAT HIM...?!
AS FOR ME...
STOP YOUR BABBLING, ALL RIGHT? LIN'S WOUNDED... HE CAN'T HELP US NOW!
W-WE NEED LIN! HE'LL KILL US...
...THE MASQUE!
...YOU'RE NOT GETTING RID OF ME THAT EASILY...
HE WON'T...

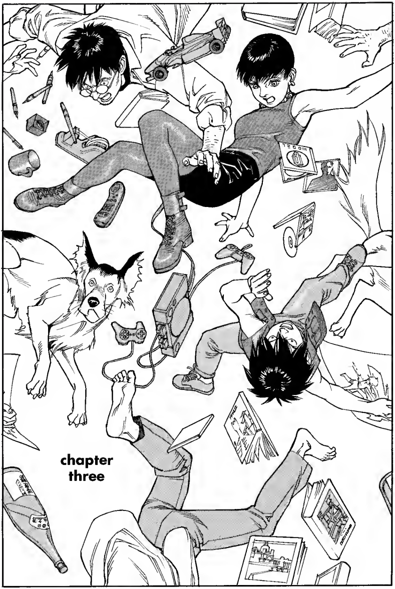

ド
BOOM
HE...
SHIT!
AAAAA!
ドドド
BRRRTTT
hkkk
BBRRRTTT
ドドド
キンッ
plink


ドバ
fwoom
ドガシャ
RRRRRMMM
UWAA!!
gasp!

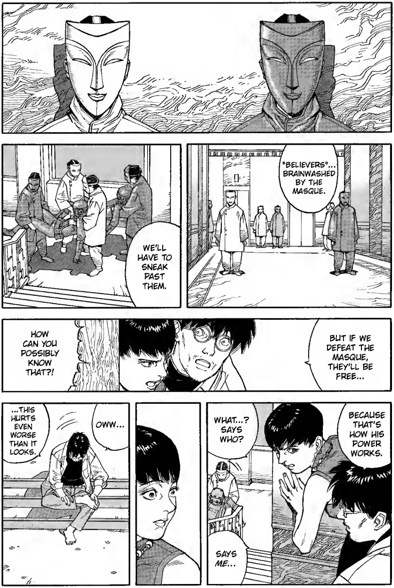

OWWW!! SHIT...
...I HATED *DIE HARD!!*
YAAAA!!
...ATOM! LET'S GO!
HEH-HEH. SUCKER!
SEE HOW YOU LIKE IT FOR A CHANGE.

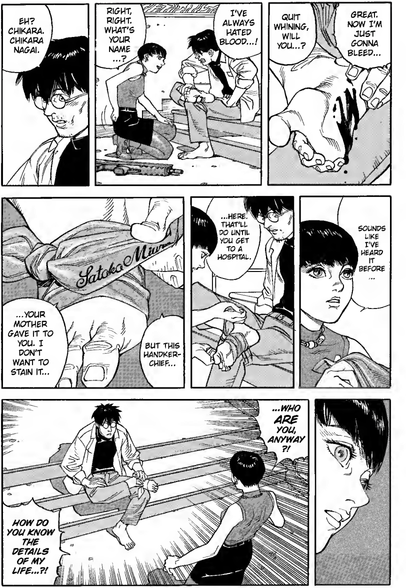

...DON'T WORRY ABOUT SATOKO.
SHE GOT AWAY SAFE.
...
WHAT?! YOU THINK I SHOULD ACCEPT MY ROLE?!
I SHOULD JUST DIE?!
...THIS IS NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN!

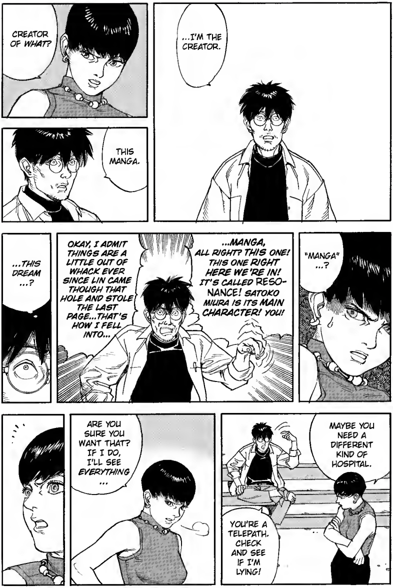
DESONANCE
opus

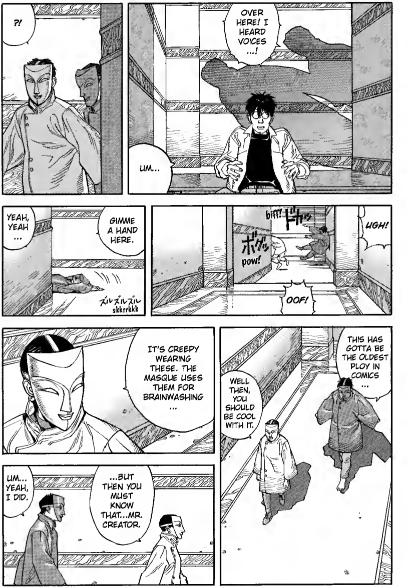


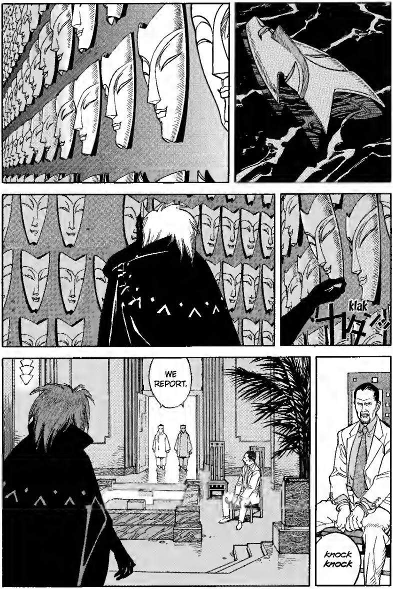
chapter three

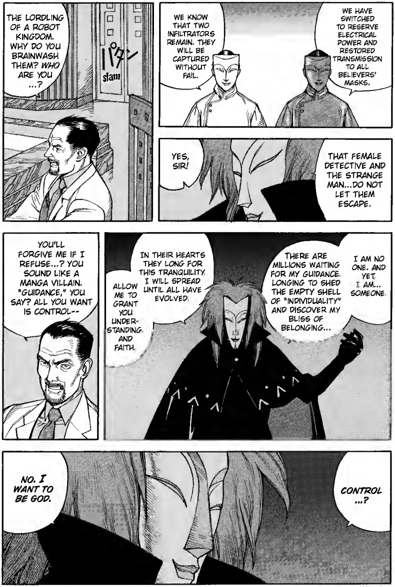

"BELIEVERS"... BRAINWASHED BY THE MASQUE.
WE'LL HAVE TO SNEAK PAST THEM.
BUT IF WE DEFEAT THE MASQUE, THEY'LL BE FREE...
HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY KNOW THAT?!
BECAUSE THAT'S HOW HIS POWER WORKS.
WHAT...? SAYS WHO?
SAYS ME...
OWW...
...THIS HURTS EVEN WORSE THAN IT LOOKS.

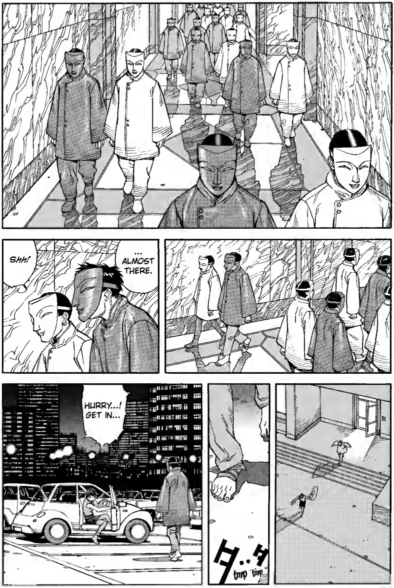

GREAT. NOW I'M JUST GONNA BLEED...
QUIT WHINING, WILL YOU...?
I'VE ALWAYS HATED BLOOD...!
RIGHT, RIGHT. WHAT'S YOUR NAME ...?
EH? CHIKARA. CHIKARA NAGAI.
SOUNDS LIKE I'VE HEARD IT BEFORE ...
...HERE. THAT'LL DO UNTIL YOU GET TO A HOSPITAL.
BUT THIS HANDKERCHIEF...
...YOUR MOTHER GAVE IT TO YOU. I DON'T WANT TO STAIN IT...
Satoko Miu
...WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY ?!
HOW DO YOU KNOW THE DETAILS OF MY LIFE...?!

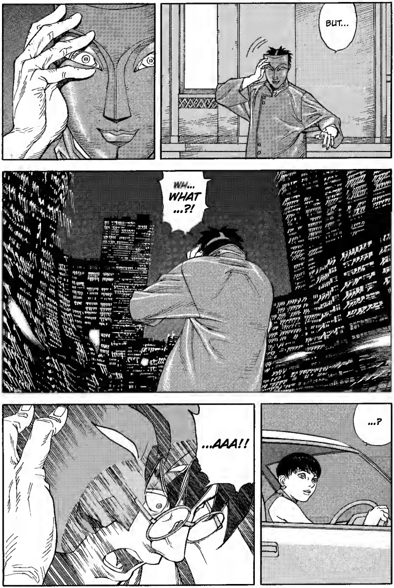

...I'M THE CREATOR.
CREATOR OF WHAT?
THIS MANGA.
"MANGA" ...?
OKAY, I ADMIT THINGS ARE A LITTLE OUT OF WHACK EVER SINCE LIN CAME THOUGH THAT HOLE AND STOLE THE LAST PAGE...THAT'S HOW I FELL INTO...
...MANGA, ALL RIGHT? THIS ONE! THIS ONE RIGHT HERE WE'RE IN! IT'S CALLED RESONANCE! SATOKO MIURA IS ITS MAIN CHARACTER! YOU!
...THIS DREAM ...?
MAYBE YOU NEED A DIFFERENT KIND OF HOSPITAL.
YOU'RE A TELEPATH. CHECK AND SEE IF I'M LYING!
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT THAT? IF I DO, I'LL SEE EVERYTHING ...

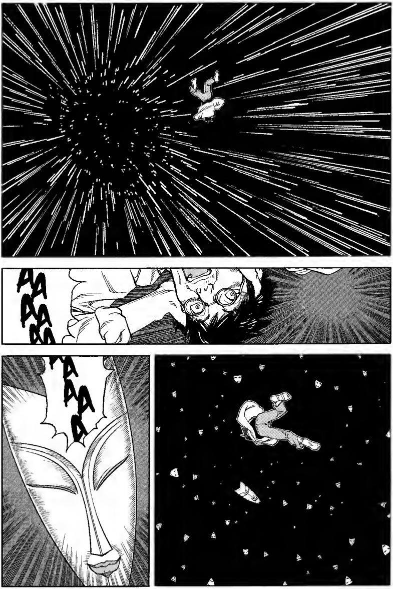

OVER HERE! I HEARD VOICES ...!
UM...
?!
UGH!
biff! ドカッ
ボグッ pow!
OOF!
GIMME A HAND HERE.
YEAH, YEAH ...
ズルズルズル skkrrkkk
THIS HAS GOTTA BE THE OLDEST PLOY IN COMICS ...
WELL THEN, YOU SHOULD BE COOL WITH IT.
IT'S CREEPY WEARING THESE. THE MASQUE USES THEM FOR BRAINWASHING ...
...BUT THEN YOU MUST KNOW THAT...MR. CREATOR.
UM... YEAH, I DID.

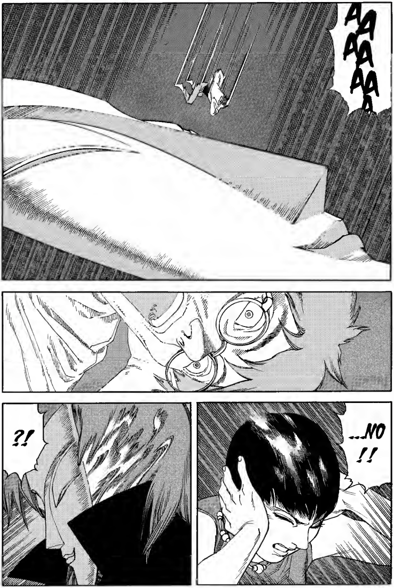

klak
knock
knock
WE REPORT.

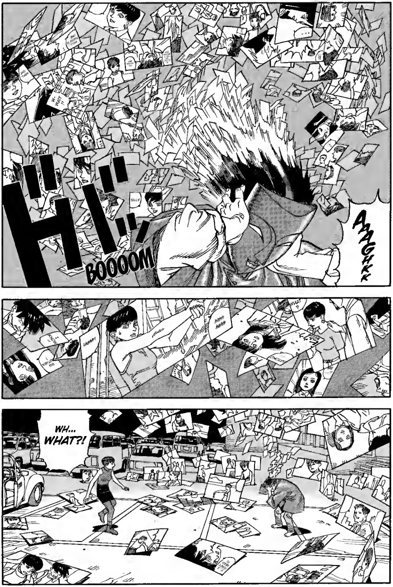

WE HAVE SWITCHED TO RESERVE ELECTRICAL POWER AND RESTORED TRANSMISSION TO ALL BELIEVERS' MASKS.
WE KNOW THAT TWO INFILTRATORS REMAIN. THEY WILL BE CAPTURED WITHOUT FAIL.
THAT FEMALE DETECTIVE AND THE STRANGE MAN...DO NOT LET THEM ESCAPE.
YES, SIR!
THE LORDLING OF A ROBOT KINGDOM. WHY DO YOU BRAINWASH THEM? *WHO* ARE YOU ...?
バタン
slam
I AM NO ONE. AND YET I AM... SOMEONE.
THERE ARE MILLIONS WAITING FOR MY GUIDANCE. LONGING TO SHED THE EMPTY SHELL OF "INDIVIDUALITY" AND DISCOVER MY BLISS OF BELONGING...
IN THEIR HEARTS THEY LONG FOR THIS TRANQUILITY. I WILL SPREAD UNTIL ALL HAVE EVOLVED.
ALLOW ME TO GRANT YOU UNDERSTANDING AND FAITH.
YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I REFUSE...? YOU SOUND LIKE A MANGA VILLAIN. "GUIDANCE," YOU SAY? ALL YOU WANT IS CONTROL--
CONTROL ...?
NO. I WANT TO BE GOD.

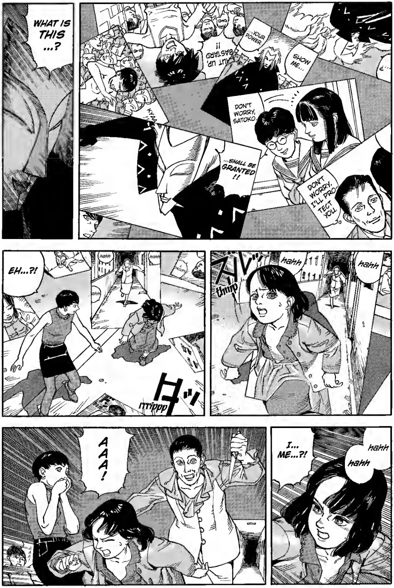

Shh!
... ALMOST THERE.
HURRY...! GET IN...
タ..タ
tmp tmp

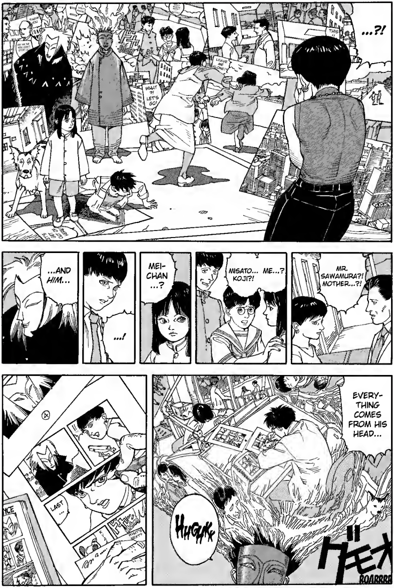

BUT...
WH... WHAT ...?!
...?
...AAA!!

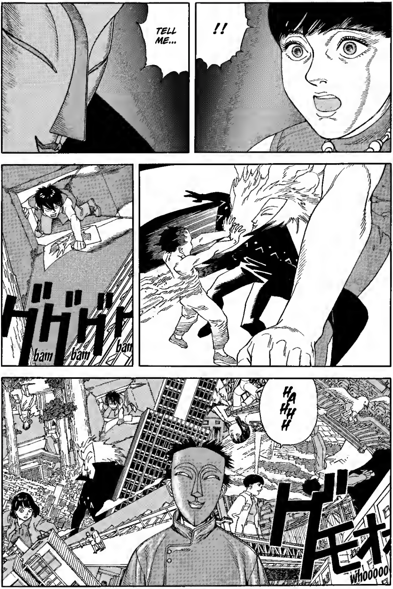

AAAAA
AAAAA

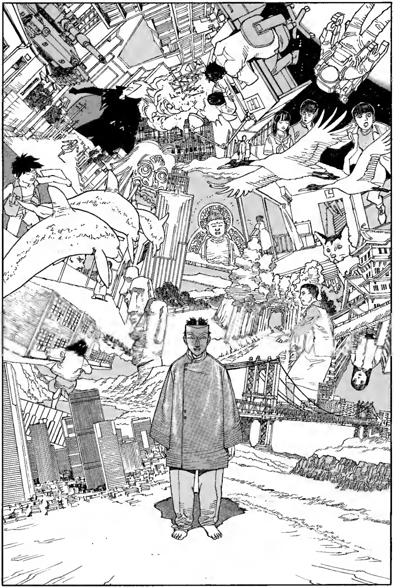

AAAAAAA
...NO !!
?!

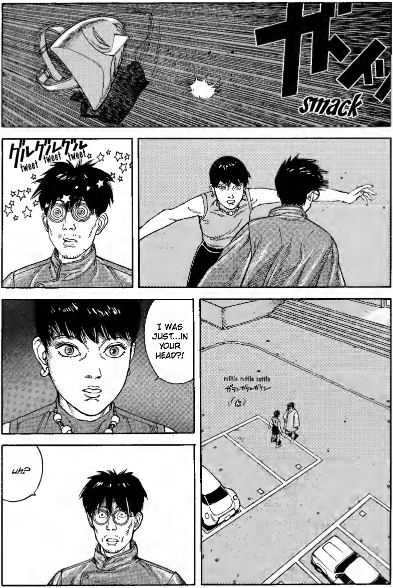

AND THEN
W- WAIT !!
SILLY
BOOOOM
AAAGHKK
WHAT ?
WH... WHAT?!

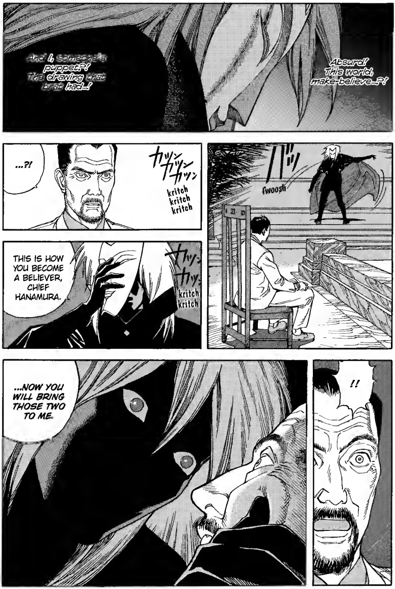

WHAT IS THIS ...?
SHUT UP, BASTARD !!
...YOUR POWER
SHOW ME...
KYAA !!
DON'T WORRY, SATOKO.
...SHALL BE GRANTED !!
DON'T WORRY. I'LL PROTECT YOU.
EH...?!
hahh
hahh
hahh
rrrippp
thmp
hahh
hahh
AAAA!
I... ME...?!
hahh
hahh

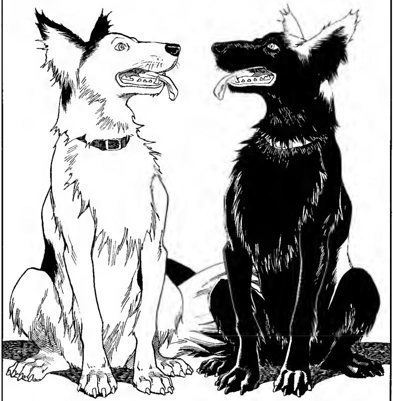

...?!
THIS I...
LEAVE ME ALONE!!
I DON'T KNOW!
THANK YOU
HA HA HA YOU CAN'T STOP A...
WHAT ?! LET'S GO!
MR. SAWAMURA?! MOTHER...?!
MISATO... ME...? KOJI?!
MEI-CHAN ...?
...!
...AND HIM...
EVERY-THING COMES FROM HIS HEAD...
ROARRRR
HUGHK
LAST ...
WHAT'S NEXT?
KYA


!!
TELL ME...
ドドドド
bam bam bam
HAHHH
ドモオ
whoooooo

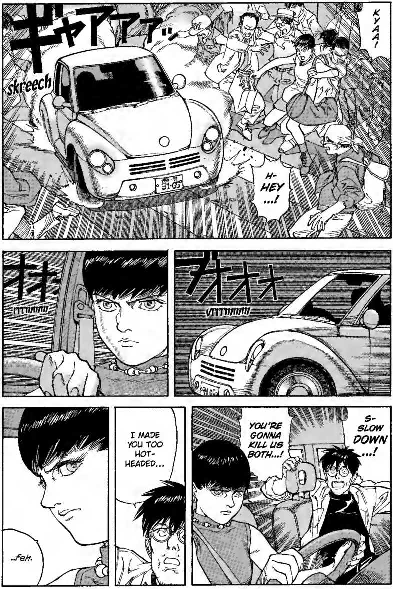


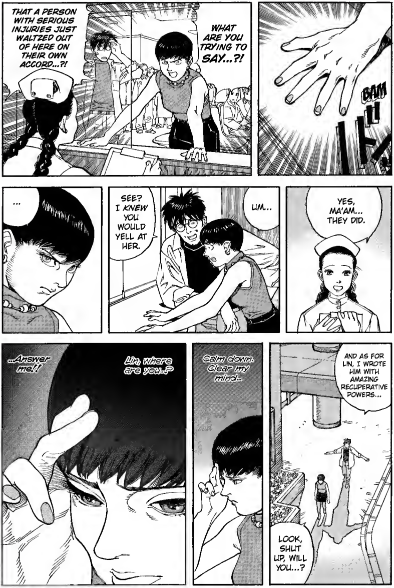

ボイッ
smack
グルグルグル
tweet tweet tweet
rattle rattle rattle
ガランガランガラン
I WAS JUST...IN YOUR HEAD?!
uh?

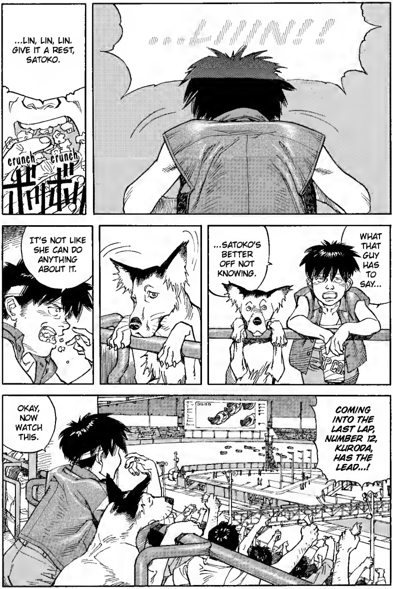

Absurd! This world, make-believe...?!
And I, someone's puppet?! The drawing that brat had...!
バッ
fwoosh
カツン ガツン カツン
kritch kritch kritch
...?!
カッ カッ
kritch kritch
THIS IS HOW YOU BECOME A BELIEVER, CHIEF HANAMURA.
!!
...NOW YOU WILL BRING THOSE TWO TO ME.

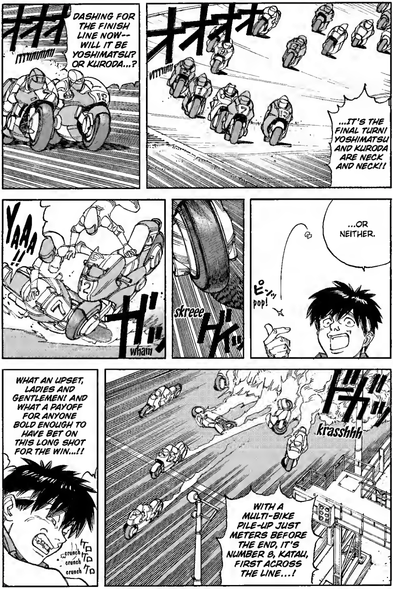


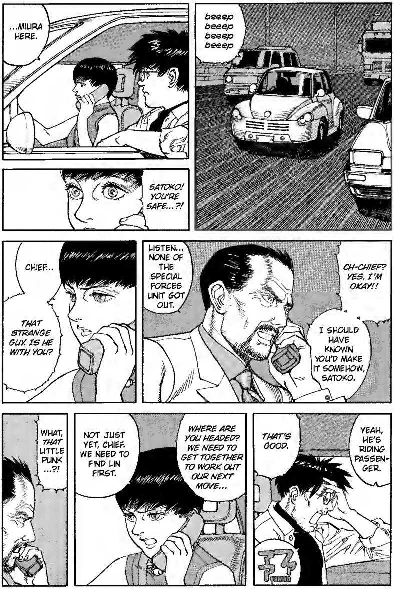
chapter four

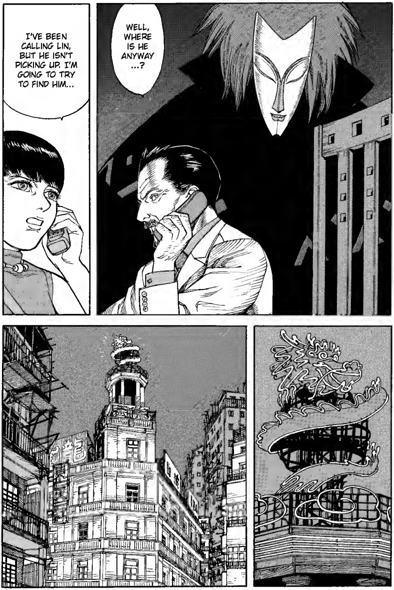

KYAA!
ギャアアアッ
skreech
H-HEY...!
31-05
ブオオオ
VRRRMMMM
オオ
VRRRMMM
S-SLOW DOWN...!
YOU'RE GONNA KILL US BOTH...!
I MADE YOU TOO HOT-HEADED...
...feh.

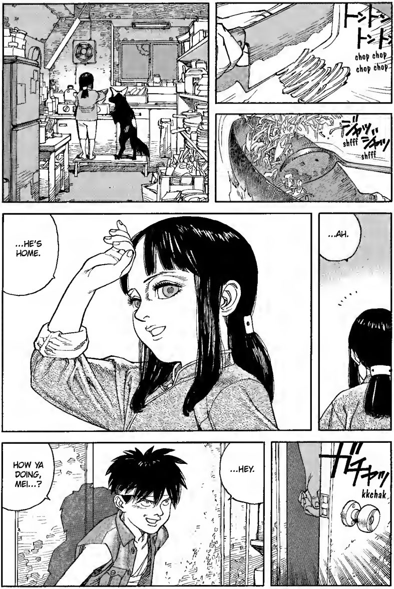

BAM
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY...?!
THAT A PERSON WITH SERIOUS INJURIES JUST WALTZED OUT OF HERE ON THEIR OWN ACCORD...?!
YES, MA'AM... THEY DID.
UM...
SEE? I KNEW YOU WOULD YELL AT HER.
...
AND AS FOR LIN, I WROTE HIM WITH AMAZING RECUPERATIVE POWERS...
LOOK, SHUT UP, WILL YOU...?
Calm down. Clear my mind...
Lin, where are you...?
...Answer me!!

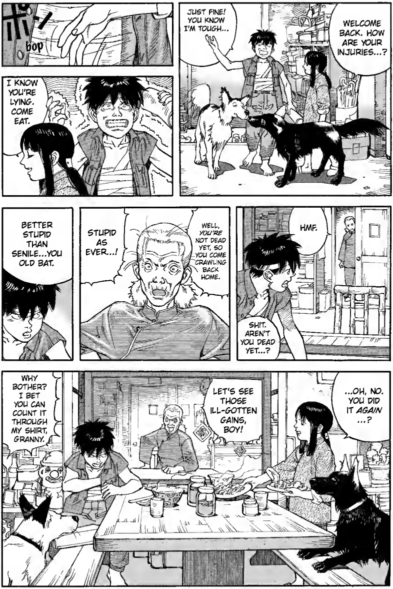

...LIIIN!!
...LIN, LIN, LIN. GIVE IT A REST, SATOKO.
crunch crunch
ポリポリ
WHAT THAT GUY HAS TO SAY...
...SATOKO'S BETTER OFF NOT KNOWING.
IT'S NOT LIKE SHE CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
COMING INTO THE LAST LAP, NUMBER 12, KURODA, HAS THE LEAD...!
OKAY, NOW WATCH THIS.

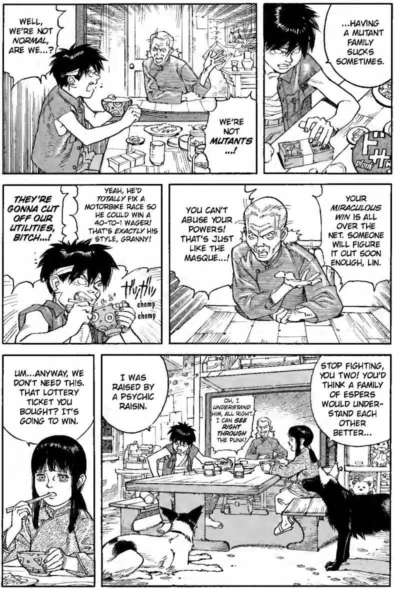

オオオ
DASHING FOR THE FINISH LINE NOW-- WILL IT BE YOSHIMATSU? OR KURODA...?
オオオオ
...IT'S THE FINAL TURN! YOSHIMATSU AND KURODA ARE NECK AND NECK!!
YAAA!!
ガッ
wham
skreee
ギイッ
...OR NEITHER.
ピーッ
pop!
WHAT AN UPSET, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! AND WHAT A PAYOFF FOR ANYONE BOLD ENOUGH TO HAVE BET ON THIS LONG SHOT FOR THE WIN...!!
crunch
crunch
crunch
ドガッ
krasshhh
WITH A MULTI-BIKE PILE-UP JUST METERS BEFORE THE END, IT'S NUMBER 8, KATAU, FIRST ACROSS THE LINE...!

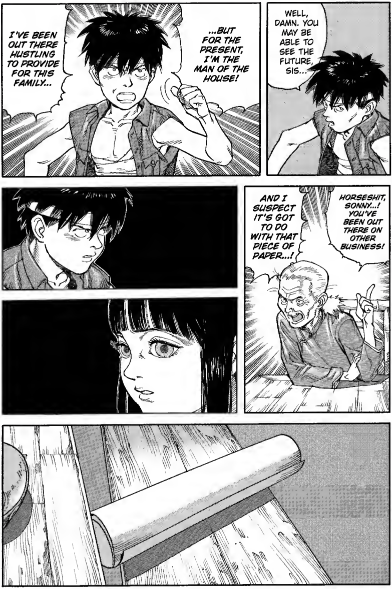

beeep beeep beeep beeep
...MIURA HERE.
SATOKO! YOU'RE SAFE...?!
CH-CHIEF? YES, I'M OKAY!!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU'D MAKE IT SOMEHOW, SATOKO.
LISTEN... NONE OF THE SPECIAL FORCES UNIT GOT OUT.
CHIEF...
THAT STRANGE GUY. IS HE WITH YOU?
YEAH, HE'S RIDING PASSENGER.
THAT'S GOOD.
yawwn
WHERE ARE YOU HEADED? WE NEED TO GET TOGETHER TO WORK OUT OUR NEXT MOVE...
NOT JUST YET, CHIEF. WE NEED TO FIND LIN FIRST.
WHAT, THAT LITTLE PUNK...?!

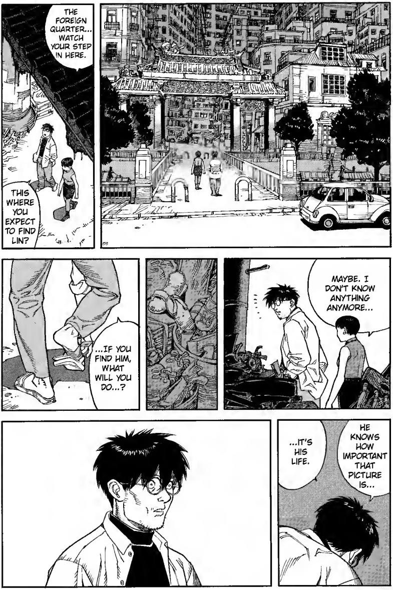

WELL, WHERE IS HE ANYWAY ...?
I'VE BEEN CALLING LIN, BUT HE ISN'T PICKING UP. I'M GOING TO TRY TO FIND HIM...

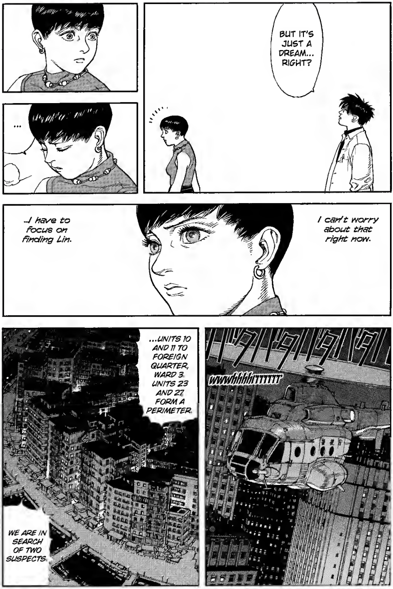

トントン
トントン
chop chop
chop chop
ジャッ
ジャッ
shfff
shfff
...AH.
...HE'S HOME.
ガチャッ
kkchak
...HEY.
HOW YA DOING, MEI...?

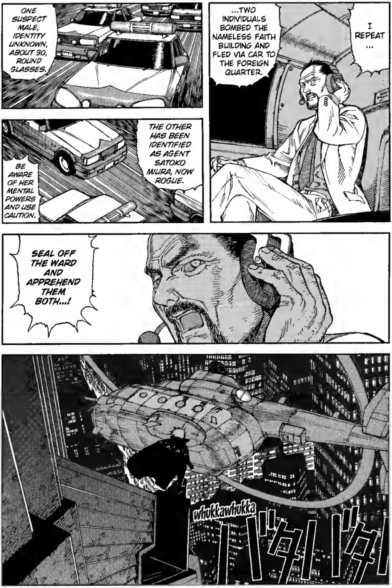

WELCOME BACK. HOW ARE YOUR INJURIES...?
JUST FINE! YOU KNOW I'M TOUGH...
bop
I KNOW YOU'RE LYING. COME EAT.
HMF.
SHIT. AREN'T YOU DEAD YET...?
WELL, *YOU'RE* NOT DEAD YET, SO YOU COME CRAWLING BACK HOME.
STUPID AS EVER...!
BETTER STUPID THAN SENILE...YOU OLD BAT.
...OH, NO. YOU DID IT *AGAIN* ...?
LET'S SEE THOSE ILL-GOTTEN GAINS, BOY!
WHY BOTHER? I BET YOU CAN COUNT IT THROUGH MY SHIRT, GRANNY.

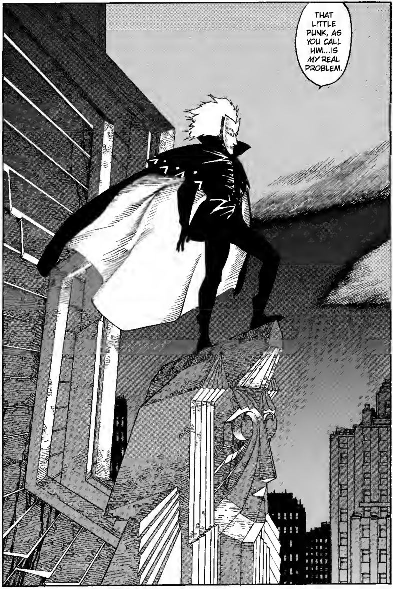

...HAVING A MUTANT FAMILY SUCKS SOMETIMES.
plonk
WELL, WE'RE NOT *NORMAL*, ARE WE...?
WE'RE NOT ***MUTANTS***...!
YOUR *MIRACULOUS WIN* IS ALL OVER THE NET. SOMEONE WILL FIGURE IT OUT SOON ENOUGH, LIN.
YOU CAN'T ABUSE YOUR *POWERS!* THAT'S JUST LIKE THE MASQUE...!
YEAH, HE'D *TOTALLY* FIX A MOTORBIKE RACE SO HE COULD WIN A 40-TO-1 WAGER! THAT'S *EXACTLY* HIS STYLE, GRANNY!
THEY'RE GONNA CUT OFF OUR UTILITIES, BITCH...!
chomp chomp
STOP FIGHTING, YOU TWO! YOU'D THINK A FAMILY OF ESPERS WOULD UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER BETTER...
OH, I *UNDERSTAND* HIM, ALL RIGHT. I CAN *SEE RIGHT THROUGH* THE PUNK!
I WAS RAISED BY A PSYCHIC RAISIN.
UM...ANYWAY, WE DON'T NEED THIS. THAT LOTTERY TICKET YOU BOUGHT? IT'S GOING TO WIN.

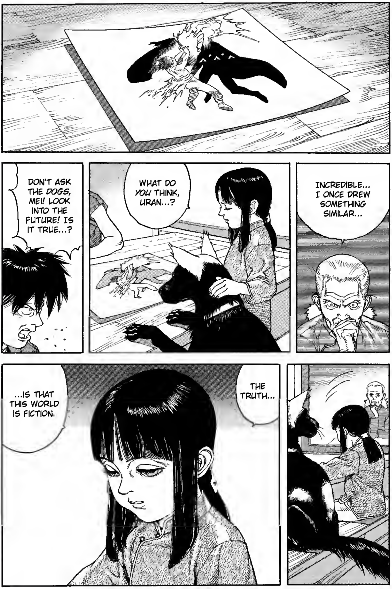

I'VE BEEN OUT THERE HUSTLING TO PROVIDE FOR THIS FAMILY...
...BUT FOR THE PRESENT, I'M THE MAN OF THE HOUSE!
WELL, DAMN. YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SEE THE FUTURE, SIS...
HORSESHIT, SONNY...! YOU'VE BEEN OUT THERE ON OTHER BUSINESS!
AND I SUSPECT IT'S GOT TO DO WITH THAT PIECE OF PAPER...!

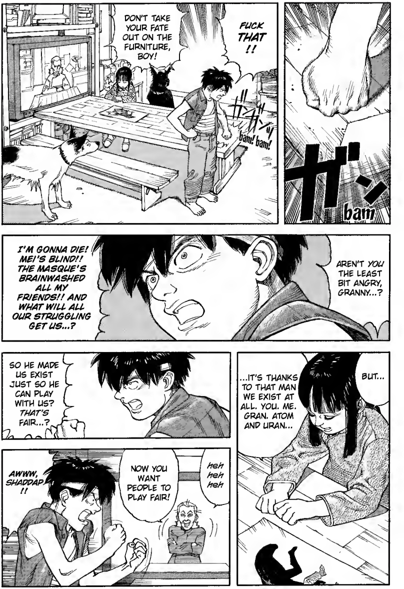

THE FOREIGN QUARTER... WATCH YOUR STEP IN HERE.
THIS WHERE YOU EXPECT TO FIND LIN?
...IF YOU FIND HIM, WHAT WILL YOU DO...?
MAYBE. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ANYMORE...
HE KNOWS HOW IMPORTANT THAT PICTURE IS...
...IT'S HIS LIFE.

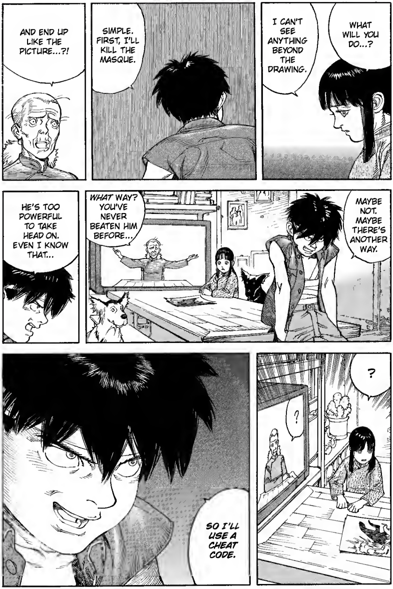

BUT IT'S JUST A DREAM... RIGHT?
...
I can't worry about that right now.
..I have to focus on finding Lin.
バタバタバタバタ
wwwhhhhrrrrrrr
...UNITS 10 AND 11 TO FOREIGN QUARTER, WARD 3. UNITS 23 AND 27 FORM A PERIMETER.
WE ARE IN SEARCH OF TWO SUSPECTS.

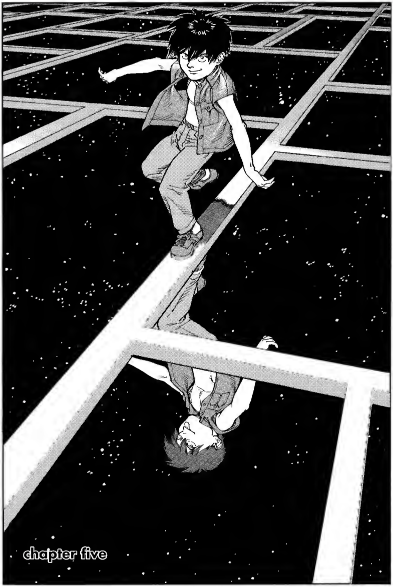

I REPEAT ...
...TWO INDIVIDUALS BOMBED THE NAMELESS FAITH BUILDING AND FLED VIA CAR TO THE FOREIGN QUARTER.
ONE SUSPECT MALE, IDENTITY UNKNOWN, ABOUT 30, ROUND GLASSES.
THE OTHER HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS AGENT SATOKO MIURA, NOW ROGUE.
BE AWARE OF HER MENTAL POWERS AND USE CAUTION.
SEAL OFF THE WARD AND APPREHEND THEM BOTH...!
whukkawhukka
バタバタ

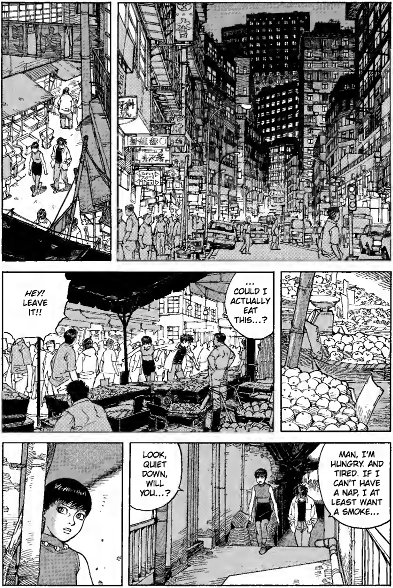

THAT LITTLE PUNK, AS YOU CALL HIM...IS MY REAL PROBLEM.

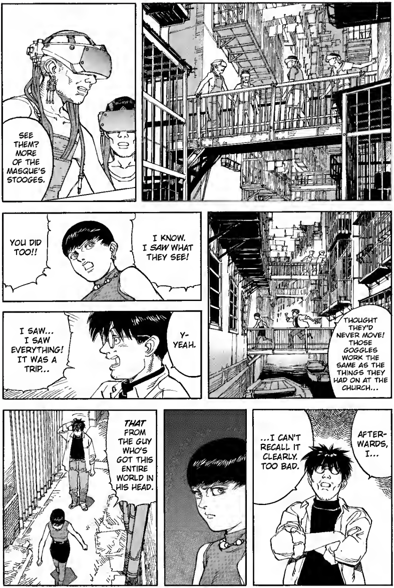

DON'T ASK THE *DOGS*, MEI! LOOK INTO THE FUTURE! IS IT TRUE...?
WHAT DO *YOU* THINK, URAN...?
INCREDIBLE... I ONCE DREW SOMETHING SIMILAR...
THE TRUTH...
...IS THAT THIS WORLD IS FICTION.

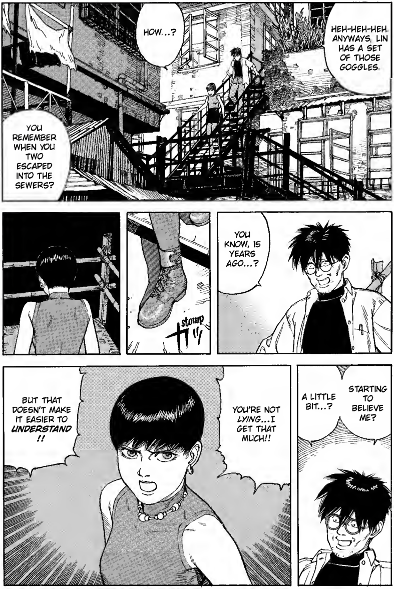

DON'T TAKE YOUR FATE OUT ON THE FURNITURE, BOY!
FUCK THAT!!
ガン ガン
bam! bam!
ガン
bam
I'M GONNA DIE! MEI'S BLIND!! THE MASQUE'S BRAINWASHED ALL MY FRIENDS!! AND WHAT WILL ALL OUR STRUGGLING GET US...?
AREN'T YOU THE LEAST BIT ANGRY, GRANNY...?
SO HE MADE US EXIST JUST SO HE CAN PLAY WITH US? THAT'S FAIR...?
heh heh heh
NOW YOU WANT PEOPLE TO PLAY FAIR!
AWWW, SHADDAP!!
BUT...
...IT'S THANKS TO THAT MAN WE EXIST AT ALL. YOU. ME. GRAN. ATOM AND URAN...

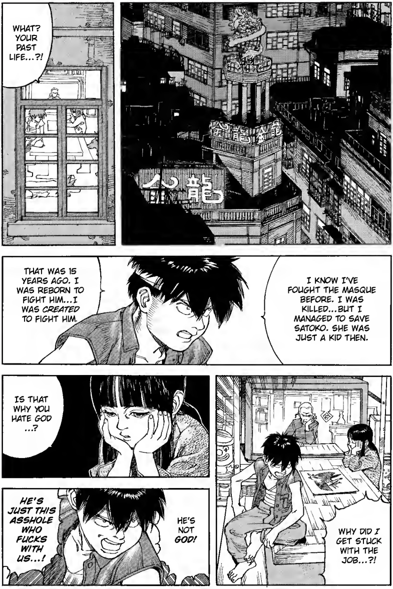

WHAT WILL YOU DO...?
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING BEYOND THE DRAWING.
SIMPLE. FIRST, I'LL KILL THE MASQUE.
AND END UP LIKE THE PICTURE...?!
MAYBE NOT. MAYBE THERE'S ANOTHER WAY.
WHAT WAY? YOU'VE NEVER BEATEN HIM BEFORE...
HE'S TOO POWERFUL TO TAKE HEAD ON. EVEN I KNOW THAT...
?
?
SO I'LL USE A CHEAT CODE.

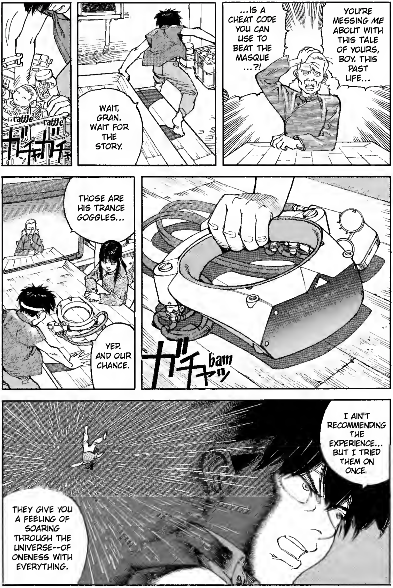

chapter five

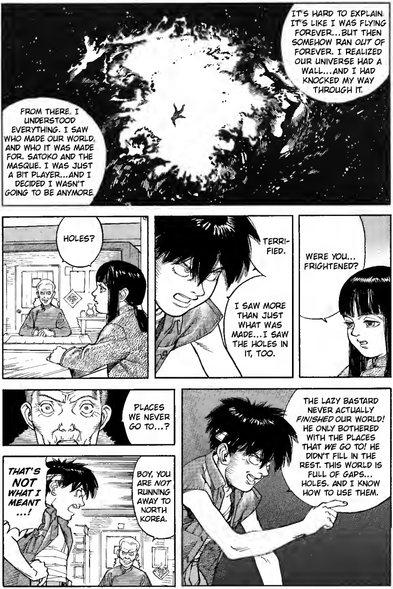

...COULD I ACTUALLY EAT THIS...?
HEY! LEAVE IT!!
MAN, I'M HUNGRY. AND TIRED. IF I CAN'T HAVE A NAP, I AT LEAST WANT A SMOKE...
LOOK, QUIET DOWN, WILL YOU...?

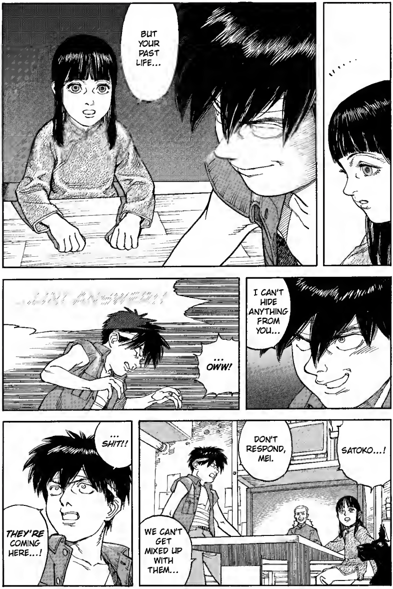

SEE THEM? MORE OF THE MASQUE'S STOOGES.
THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER MOVE! THOSE GOGGLES WORK THE SAME AS THE THINGS THEY HAD ON AT THE CHURCH...
I KNOW. I *SAW* WHAT THEY SEE!
YOU DID TOO!!
Y-YEAH.
I SAW... I SAW EVERYTHING! IT WAS A TRIP...
AFTER-WARDS, I...
...I CAN'T RECALL IT CLEARLY. TOO BAD.
THAT FROM THE GUY WHO'S GOT THIS ENTIRE WORLD IN HIS HEAD.

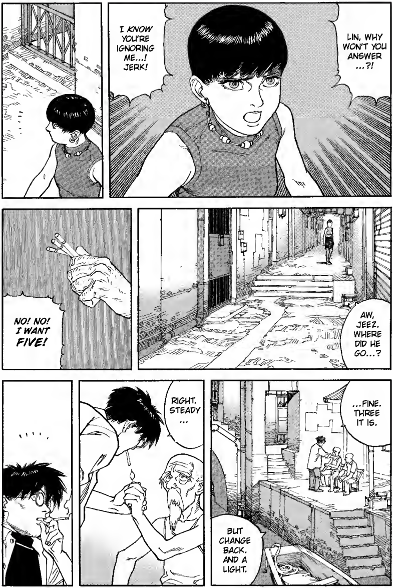

HEH-HEH-HEH ANYWAYS, LIN HAS A SET OF THOSE GOGGLES.
HOW...?
YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU TWO ESCAPED INTO THE SEWERS?
stomp
YOU KNOW, 15 YEARS AGO...?
STARTING TO BELIEVE ME?
A LITTLE BIT...?
YOU'RE NOT *LYING*...I GET THAT MUCH!!
BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT EASIER TO ***UNDERSTAND*** !!

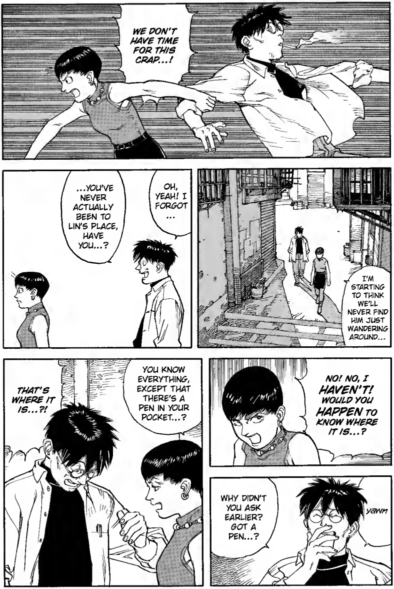

WHAT? YOUR PAST LIFE...?!
THAT WAS 15 YEARS AGO. I WAS REBORN TO FIGHT HIM...I WAS *CREATED* TO FIGHT HIM.
I KNOW I'VE FOUGHT THE MASQUE BEFORE. I WAS KILLED...BUT I MANAGED TO SAVE SATOKO. SHE WAS JUST A KID THEN.
IS THAT WHY YOU HATE GOD ...?
HE'S NOT *GOD!*
HE'S JUST THIS ASSHOLE WHO FUCKS WITH US...!
WHY DID *I* GET STUCK WITH THE JOB...?!

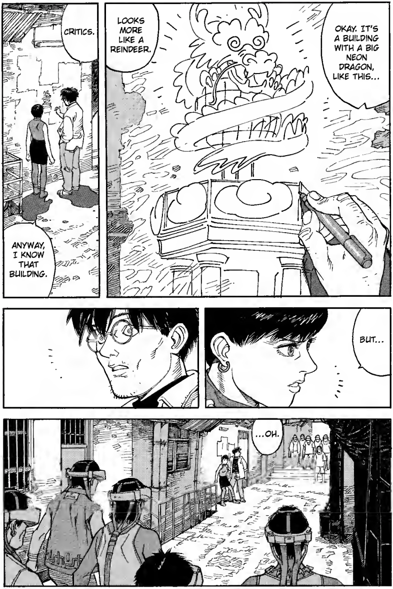

YOU'RE MESSING *ME* ABOUT WITH THIS TALE OF YOURS, BOY. THIS PAST LIFE...
...IS A CHEAT CODE YOU CAN USE TO BEAT THE MASQUE ...?!
WAIT, GRAN. WAIT FOR THE STORY.
rattle rattle
ガチャガチャ
bam
ガチャッ
THOSE ARE HIS TRANCE GOGGLES...
YEP. AND OUR CHANCE.
I AIN'T RECOMMENDING THE EXPERIENCE... BUT I TRIED THEM ON ONCE.
THEY GIVE YOU A FEELING OF SOARING THROUGH THE UNIVERSE--OF ONENESS WITH EVERYTHING.

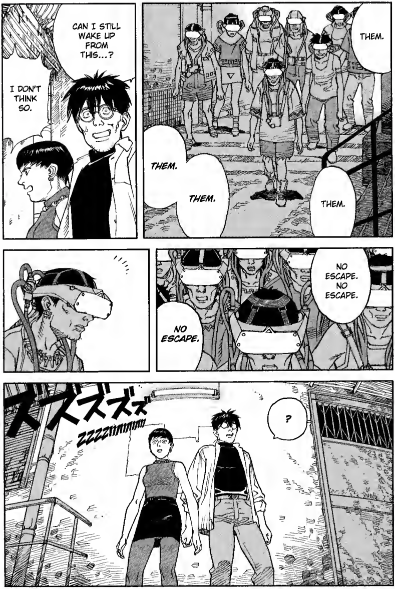

IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN. IT'S LIKE I WAS FLYING FOREVER...BUT THEN SOMEHOW RAN *OUT* OF FOREVER. I REALIZED OUR UNIVERSE HAD A WALL...AND I HAD KNOCKED MY WAY THROUGH IT.
FROM THERE, I UNDERSTOOD EVERYTHING. I SAW WHO MADE OUR WORLD, AND WHO IT WAS MADE FOR. SATOKO AND THE MASQUE. I WAS JUST A BIT PLAYER...AND I DECIDED I WASN'T GOING TO BE ANYMORE.
WERE YOU... FRIGHTENED?
TERRIFIED.
I SAW MORE THAN JUST WHAT WAS MADE...I SAW THE HOLES IN IT, TOO.
HOLES?
THE LAZY BASTARD NEVER ACTUALLY *FINISHED* OUR WORLD! HE ONLY BOTHERED WITH THE PLACES THAT *WE GO TO!* HE DIDN'T FILL IN THE REST. THIS WORLD IS FULL OF GAPS... HOLES. AND I KNOW HOW TO USE THEM.
PLACES WE NEVER GO TO...?
BOY, YOU ARE *NOT* RUNNING AWAY TO NORTH KOREA.
THAT'S ***NOT*** *WHAT I MEANT ...!*

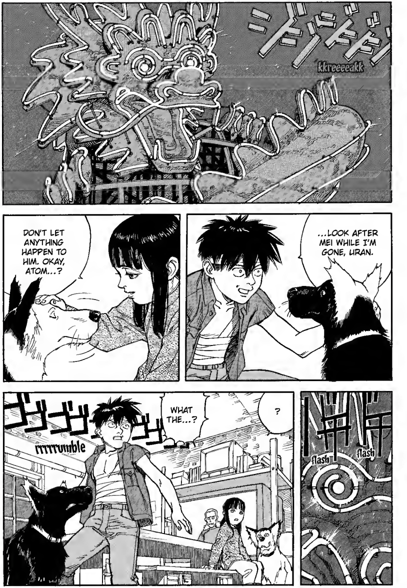

BUT YOUR PAST LIFE...
......
...SAY ANSWER!!
...OWW!
I CAN'T HIDE ANYTHING FROM YOU...
...SHIT!!
THEY'RE COMING HERE...!
DON'T RESPOND, MEI.
SATOKO...!
WE CAN'T GET MIXED UP WITH THEM...

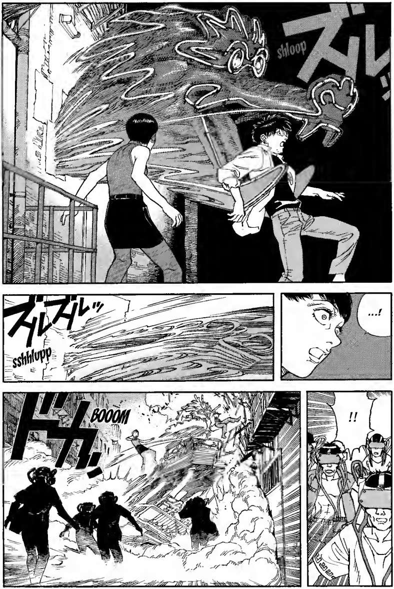

LIN, WHY WON'T YOU ANSWER ...?!
I *KNOW* YOU'RE IGNORING ME...! JERK!
AW, JEEZ. WHERE DID HE GO...?
NO! NO! I WANT ***FIVE!***
...FINE. THREE IT IS.
BUT CHANGE BACK. AND A LIGHT.
RIGHT. STEADY ...

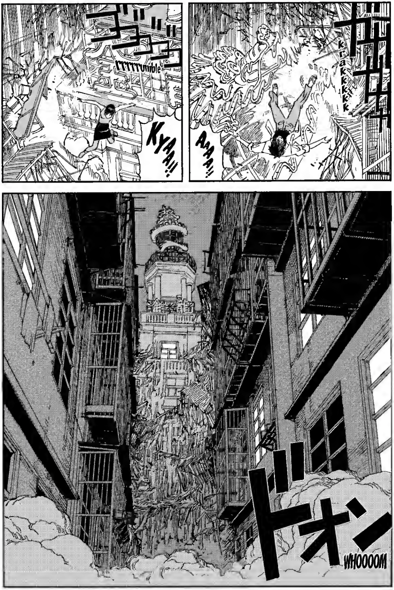

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS CRAP...!
I'M STARTING TO THINK WE'LL NEVER FIND HIM JUST WANDERING AROUND...
...YOU'VE NEVER ACTUALLY BEEN TO LIN'S PLACE, HAVE YOU...?
OH, YEAH! I FORGOT...
WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK EARLIER? GOT A PEN...?
yawn
NO! NO, I HAVEN'T! WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE IT IS...?
YOU KNOW EVERYTHING, EXCEPT THAT THERE'S A PEN IN YOUR POCKET...?
THAT'S WHERE IT IS...?!

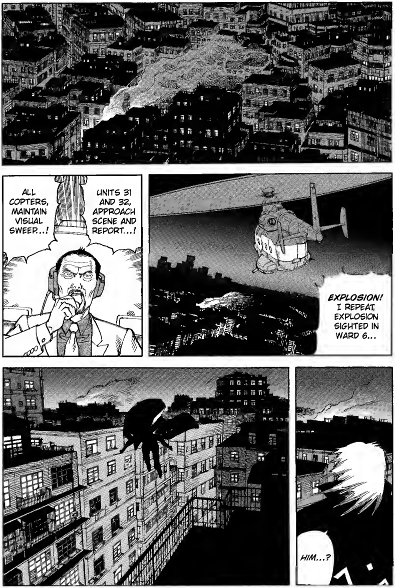

OKAY. IT'S A BUILDING WITH A BIG NEON DRAGON, LIKE THIS...
LOOKS MORE LIKE A REINDEER.
CRITICS.
ANYWAY, I KNOW THAT BUILDING.
BUT...
...OH.

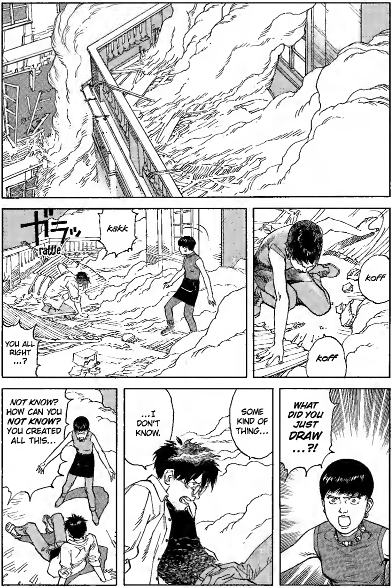

THEM.
THEM.
THEM.
THEM.
CAN I STILL WAKE UP FROM THIS...?
I DON'T THINK SO.
NO ESCAPE. NO ESCAPE.
NO ESCAPE.
?
ズズズズ
ZZZZIIIIIIII

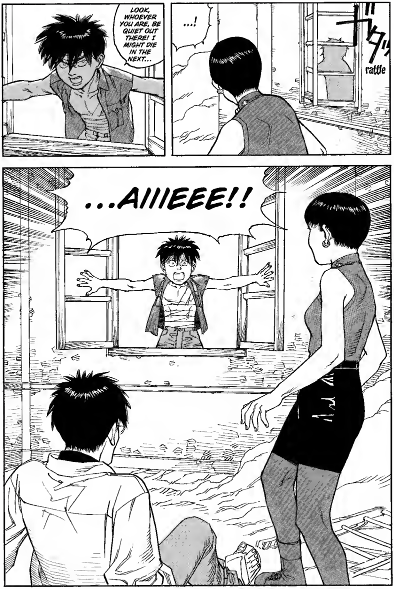

kkreeeeakk
DON'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO HIM. OKAY, ATOM...?
...LOOK AFTER MEI WHILE I'M GONE, URAN.
rrrrrrumble
WHAT THE...?
?
flash
flash


ズルッ
shloop
…!
ズルズルッ
sshhlupp
!!
ドカッ
BOOOM

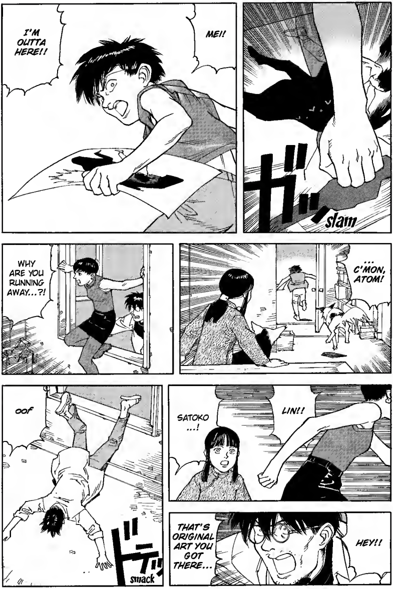

ガガガ
krakkkkk
AAAA!!
ゴゴゴゴ
rrrrrrumble
KYAA!!
ドオン
WHOOOOM

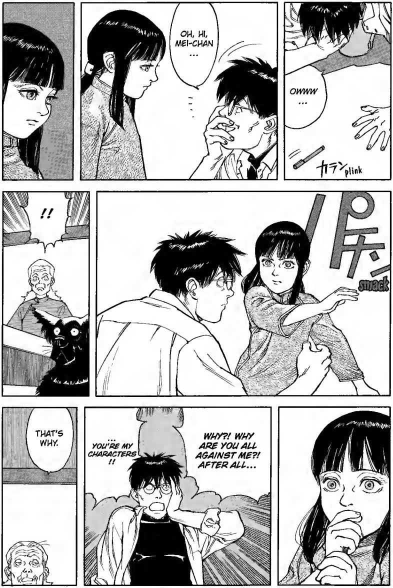

ALL COPTERS, MAINTAIN VISUAL SWEEP...!
UNITS 31 AND 32, APPROACH SCENE AND REPORT...!
EXPLOSION! I REPEAT EXPLOSION SIGHTED IN WARD 6...
HIM...?

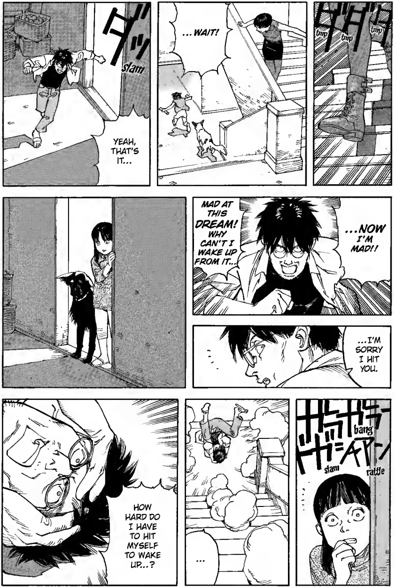

koff
koff
ガラッ
rattle
kakk
YOU ALL RIGHT ...?
WHAT DID YOU JUST DRAW ...?!
SOME KIND OF THING...
...I DON'T KNOW.
NOT KNOW? HOW CAN YOU NOT KNOW? YOU CREATED ALL THIS...

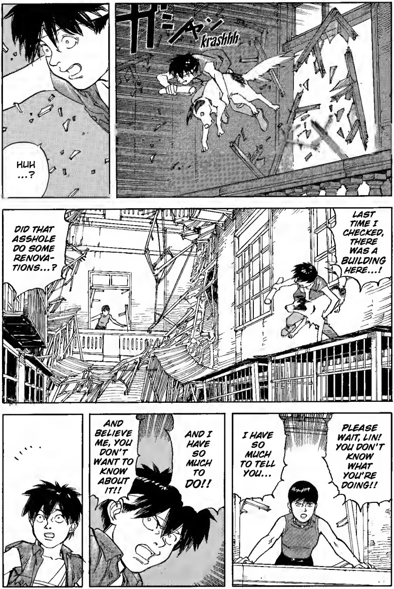

LOOK, WHOEVER YOU ARE, BE QUIET OUT THERE! I MIGHT DIE IN THE NEXT...
...!
ガタッ
rattle
...AIIIEEE!!

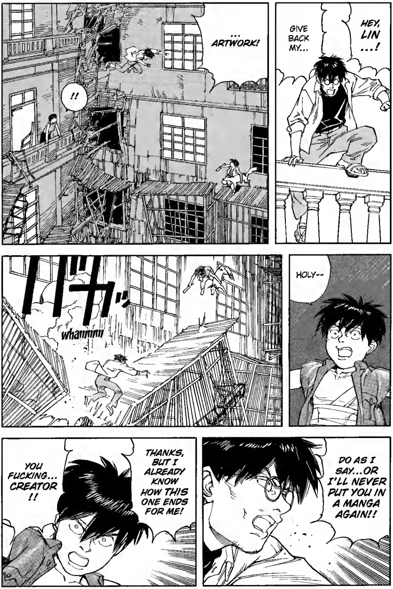
chapter six

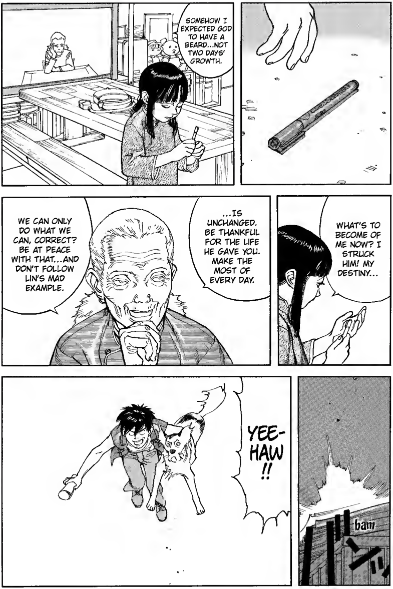

I'M OUTTA HERE!!
MEI!
ガッ
slam
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY...?!
... C'MON, ATOM!
oof
ドテッ
smack
SATOKO ...!
LIN!!
THAT'S ORIGINAL ART YOU GOT THERE...
HEY!!

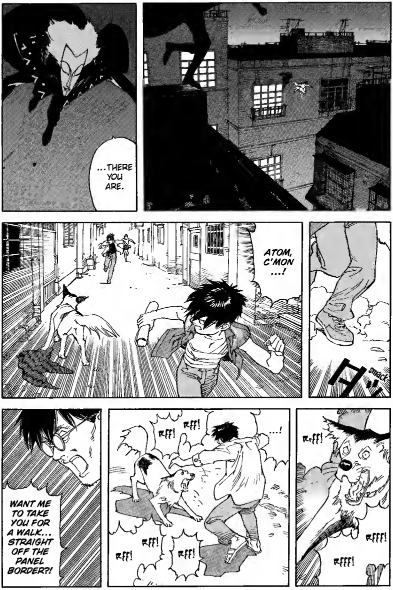

OWWW
...
カラン plink
OH, HI, MEI-CHAN
...
パチン smack
!!
WHY?! WHY ARE YOU ALL AGAINST ME?! AFTER ALL...
... YOU'RE MY CHARACTERS !!
THAT'S WHY.

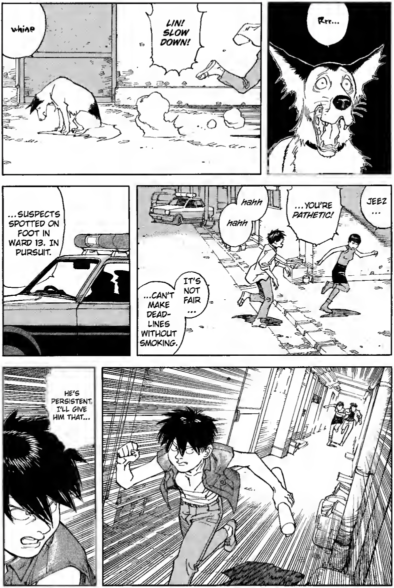

ダダダ
tmp
tmp
tmp
...WAIT!
ダッ
slam
YEAH, THAT'S IT...
...NOW I'M MAD!!
MAD AT THIS DREAM! WHY CAN'T I WAKE UP FROM IT...
...I'M SORRY I HIT YOU.
...
ガラガラ
bang
ドガシャアーン
slam
rattle
...
...
HOW HARD DO I HAVE TO HIT MYSELF TO WAKE UP...?

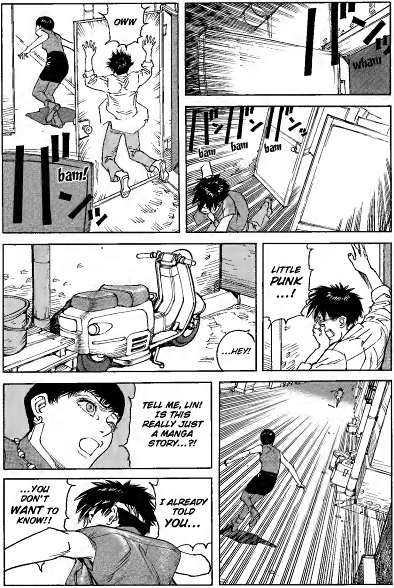

HUH ...?
ガシャン
krashhh
DID THAT ASSHOLE DO SOME RENOVATIONS...?
LAST TIME I CHECKED, THERE WAS A BUILDING HERE...!
'...
AND BELIEVE ME, YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT!!
AND I HAVE SO MUCH TO DO!!
I HAVE SO MUCH TO TELL YOU...
PLEASE WAIT, LIN! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!!

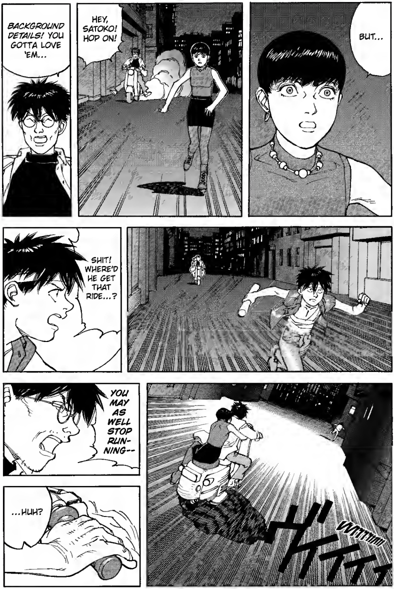

HEY, LIN ...!
GIVE BACK MY...
... ARTWORK!
!!
HOLY--
ドガッ
whammm
DO AS I SAY...OR I'LL NEVER PUT YOU IN A MANGA AGAIN!!
THANKS, BUT I ALREADY KNOW HOW THIS ONE ENDS FOR ME!
YOU FUCKING... CREATOR !!

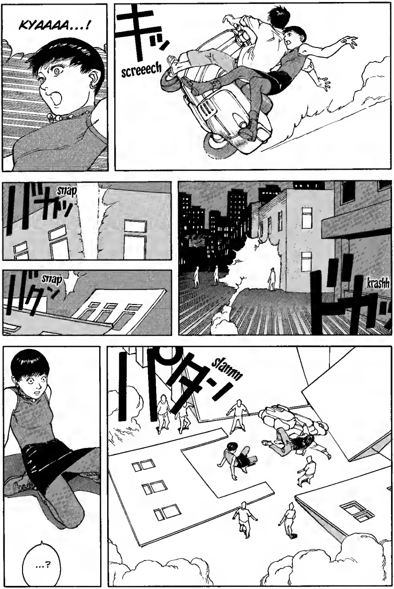

SOMEHOW I EXPECTED GOD TO HAVE A BEARD...NOT TWO DAYS' GROWTH.
WHAT'S TO BECOME OF ME NOW? I STRUCK HIM! MY DESTINY...
...IS UNCHANGED. BE THANKFUL FOR THE LIFE HE GAVE YOU. MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY DAY.
WE CAN ONLY DO WHAT WE CAN, CORRECT? BE AT PEACE WITH THAT...AND DON'T FOLLOW LIN'S MAD EXAMPLE.
YEE-HAW !!
bam

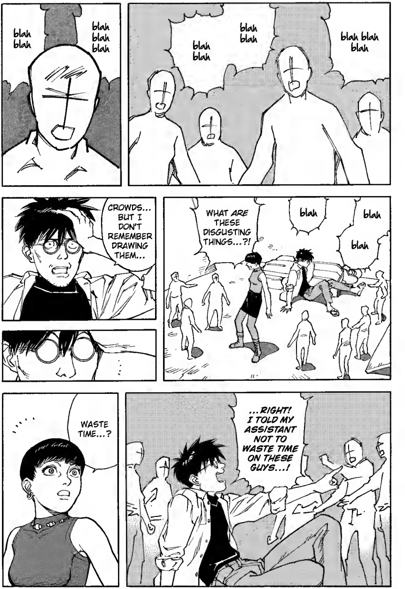

...THERE YOU ARE.
ATOM, C'MON ...!
ダッ
smack
WANT ME TO TAKE YOU FOR A WALK... STRAIGHT OFF THE PANEL BORDER?!
RFF!
RFF!
...!
RFF!
RFF!
RFF!
RFF!
RFFF!
RFFF!

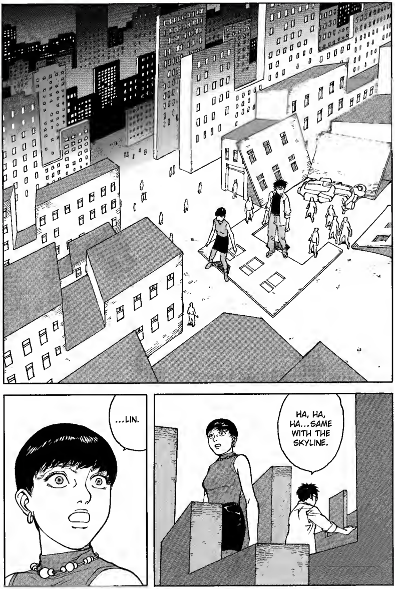

whine
LIN! SLOW DOWN!
Rrr...
...SUSPECTS SPOTTED ON FOOT IN WARD 13. IN PURSUIT.
hahh
hahh
...YOU'RE PATHETIC!
JEEZ ...
IT'S NOT FAIR ...
...CAN'T MAKE DEADLINES WITHOUT SMOKING.
HE'S PERSISTENT, I'LL GIVE HIM THAT...

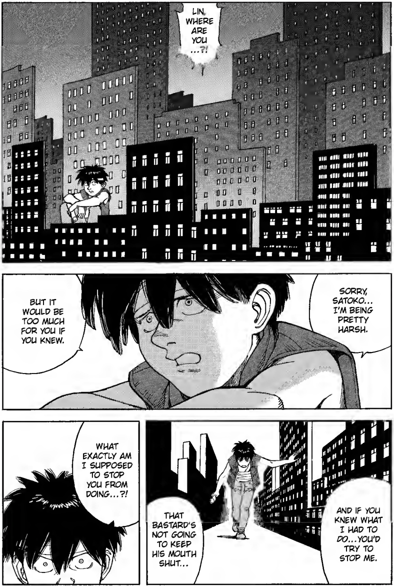

wham
bam
bam
bam
OWW
bam!
LITTLE PUNK ...!
...HEY!
TELL ME, LIN! IS THIS REALLY JUST A MANGA STORY...?!
I ALREADY TOLD YOU...
...YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW!!

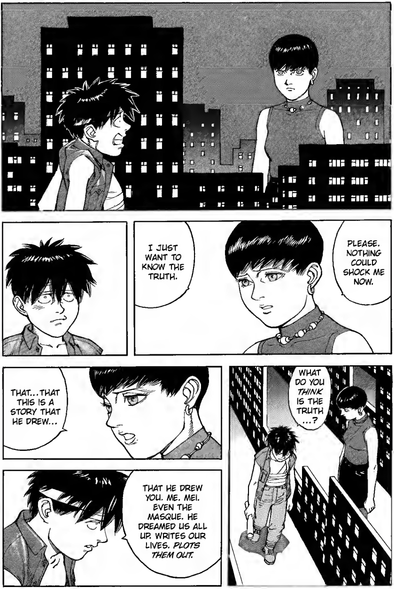

BACKGROUND DETAILS! YOU GOTTA LOVE 'EM...
HEY, SATOKO! HOP ON!
BUT...
SHIT! WHERE'D HE GET THAT RIDE...?
YOU MAY AS WELL STOP RUNNING--
...HUH?
ヴィィィ
WHIIIIIIIN

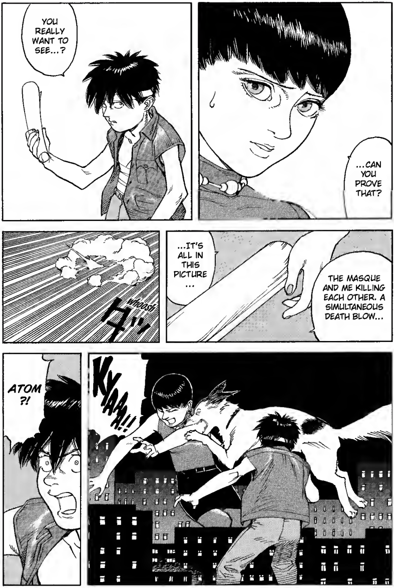

KYAAAA...!
キッ
screeech
バガッ
snap
バグン
snap
ドカッ
krashh
パタン
slamm
...?

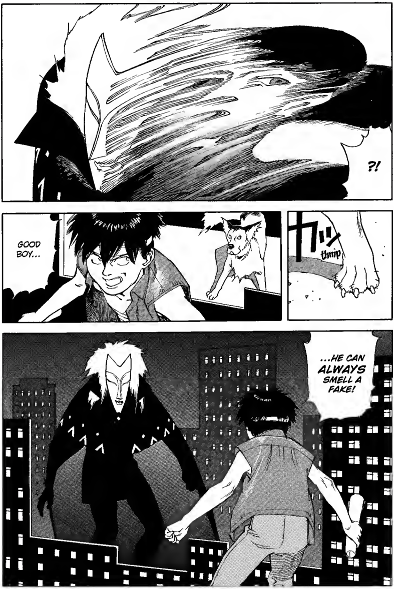

blah blah blah
blah
blah
blah
blah
blah
blah
blah
blah
blah
blah
blah
WHAT ARE THESE DISGUSTING THINGS...?!
blah
blah
blah
CROWDS... BUT I DON'T REMEMBER DRAWING THEM...
...
...RIGHT! I TOLD MY ASSISTANT NOT TO WASTE TIME ON THESE GUYS...!
WASTE TIME...?
...

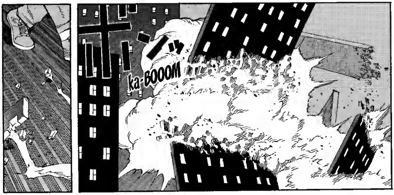

...LIN.
HA, HA, HA...SAME WITH THE SKYLINE.


LIN WHERE ARE YOU ...?!
SORRY, SATOKO... I'M BEING PRETTY HARSH.
BUT IT WOULD BE TOO MUCH FOR YOU IF YOU KNEW.
AND IF YOU KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO...YOU'D TRY TO STOP ME.
THAT BASTARD'S NOT GOING TO KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT...
WHAT EXACTLY AM I SUPPOSED TO STOP YOU FROM DOING...?!

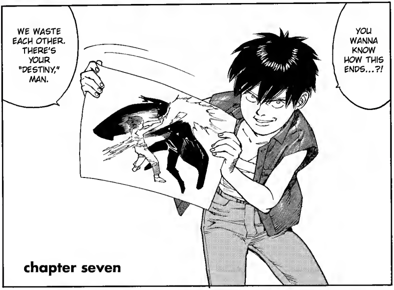

PLEASE. NOTHING COULD SHOCK ME NOW.
I JUST WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH.
WHAT DO YOU *THINK* IS THE TRUTH ...?
THAT...THAT THIS IS A STORY THAT HE DREW...
THAT HE DREW YOU. ME. MEI. EVEN THE MASQUE. HE DREAMED US ALL UP. WRITES OUR LIVES. *PLOTS THEM OUT.*

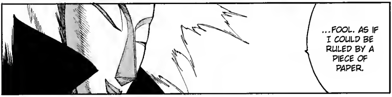

YOU REALLY WANT TO SEE...?
...CAN YOU PROVE THAT?
WHOOSH
ダッ
...IT'S ALL IN THIS PICTURE ...
THE MASQUE AND ME KILLING EACH OTHER. A SIMULTANEOUS DEATH BLOW...
ATOM ?!
KYAAA!!

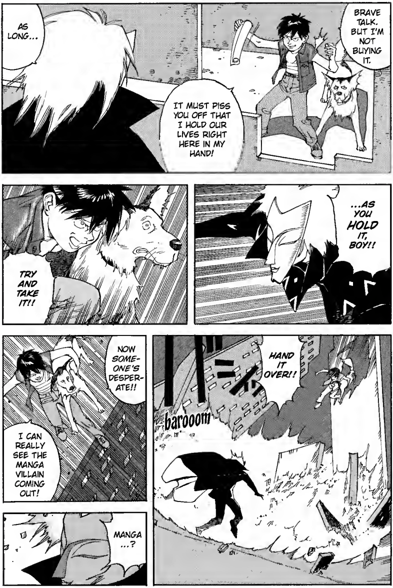

?!
カッ
thmp
GOOD BOY...
...HE CAN ALWAYS SMELL A FAKE!

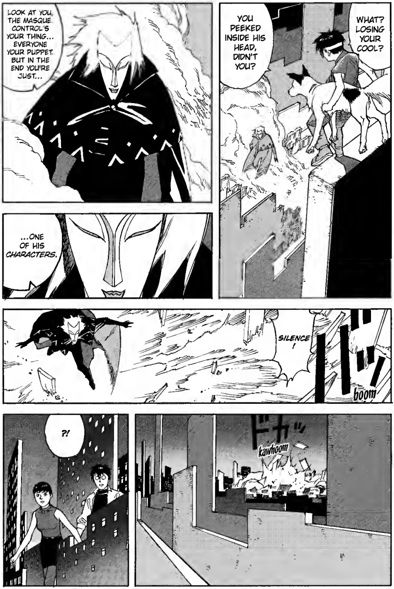


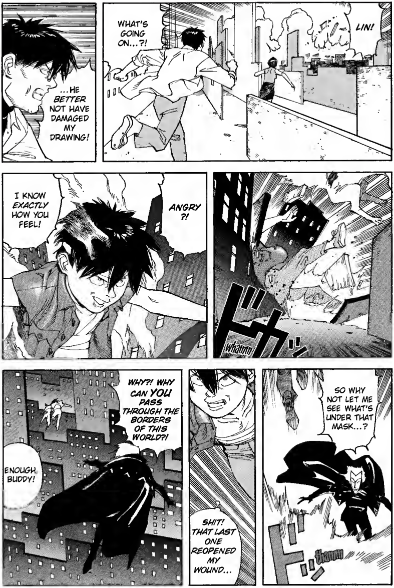
chapter seven

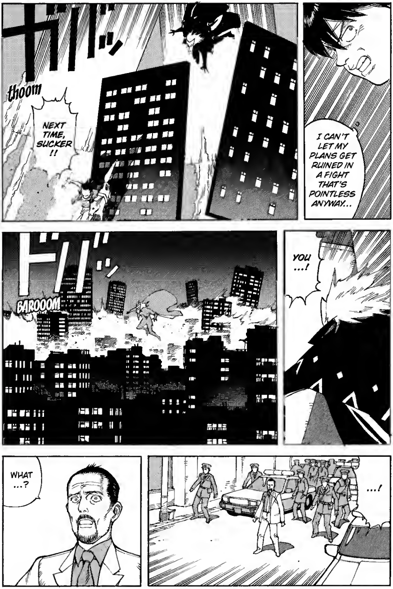

YOU WANNA KNOW HOW THIS ENDS...?!
WE WASTE EACH OTHER. THERE'S YOUR "DESTINY," MAN.

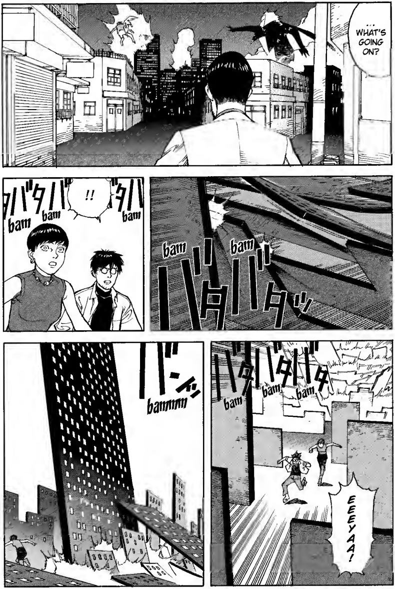

...FOOL. AS IF I COULD BE RULED BY A PIECE OF PAPER.

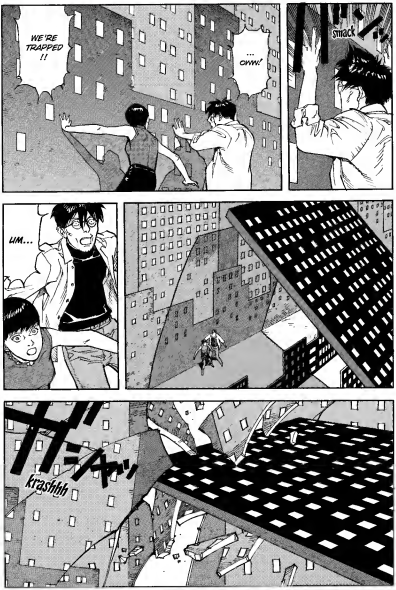

BRAVE TALK. BUT I'M NOT BUYING IT.
IT MUST PISS YOU OFF THAT I HOLD OUR LIVES RIGHT HERE IN MY HAND!
AS LONG...
...AS YOU HOLD IT, BOY!!
TRY AND TAKE IT!!
HAND IT OVER!!
barooom
NOW SOMEONE'S DESPERATE!!
I CAN REALLY SEE THE MANGA VILLAIN COMING OUT!
MANGA ...?

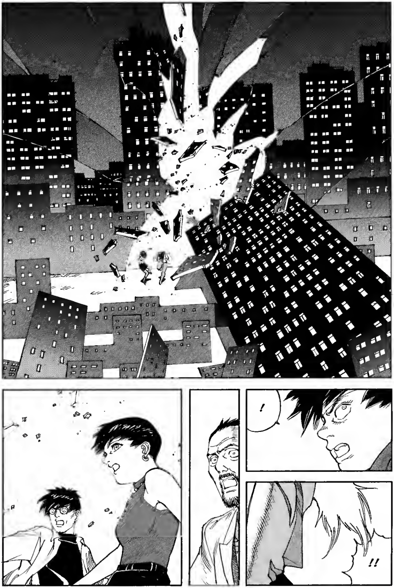

LOOK AT YOU. THE MASQUE CONTROL'S YOUR THING... EVERYONE YOUR PUPPET. BUT IN THE END YOU'RE JUST...
...ONE OF HIS CHARACTERS.
YOU PEEKED INSIDE HIS HEAD, DIDN'T YOU?
WHAT? LOSING YOUR COOL?
SILENCE!
boom
?!
ドカッ
kawhoom

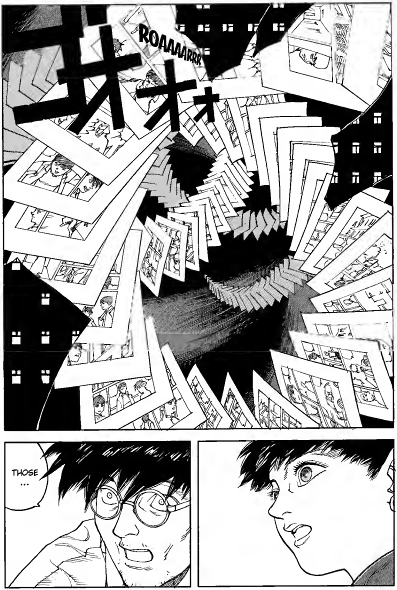

...HE BETTER NOT HAVE DAMAGED MY DRAWING!
WHAT'S GOING ON...?!
LIN!
I KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL!
ANGRY ?!
ドカッ
whamm
WHY?! WHY CAN YOU PASS THROUGH THE BORDERS OF THIS WORLD?!
ENOUGH, BUDDY!
SHIT! THAT LAST ONE REOPENED MY WOUND...
SO WHY NOT LET ME SEE WHAT'S UNDER THAT MASK...?
ドッ
thamm

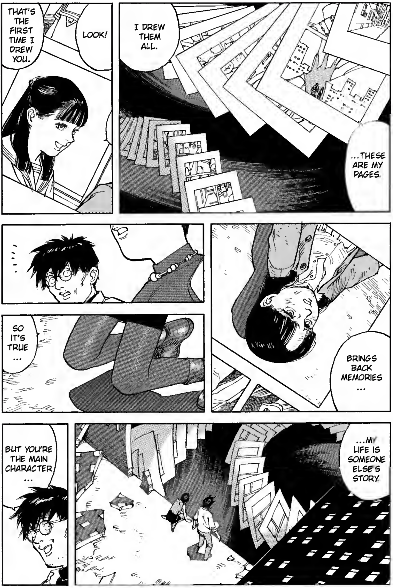

I CAN'T LET MY PLANS GET RUINED IN A FIGHT THAT'S POINTLESS ANYWAY...
thoom
NEXT TIME, SUCKER !!
YOU ...!
BAROOOM
...!
WHAT ...?

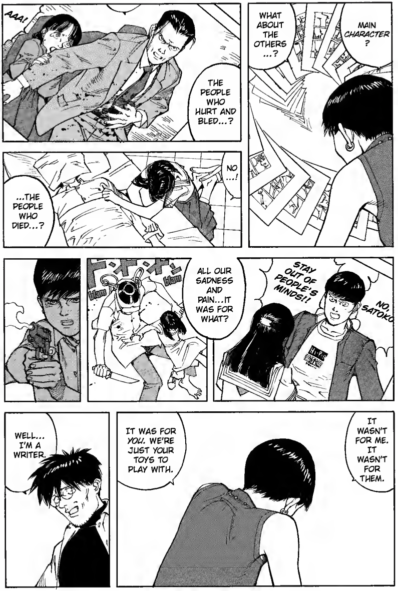

... WHAT'S GOING ON?
bam
bam
!!
bam
bam
bam
bam
bam
bam
EEEYAA!
bammm

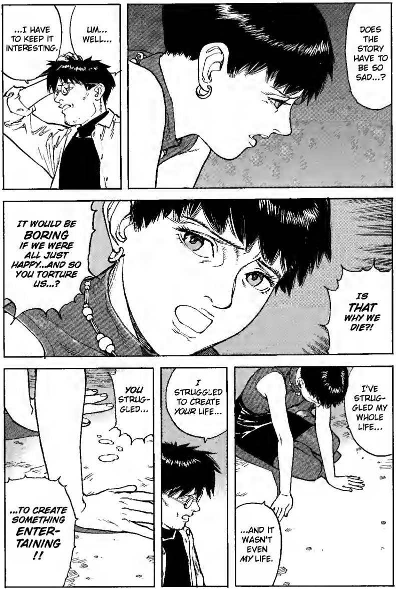

WE'RE TRAPPED !!
... OWW!
smack
UM...
krashhh

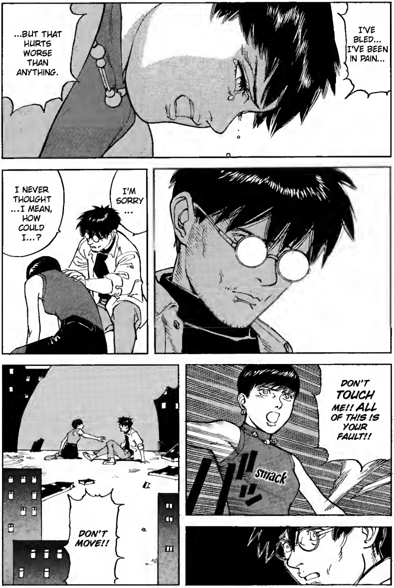


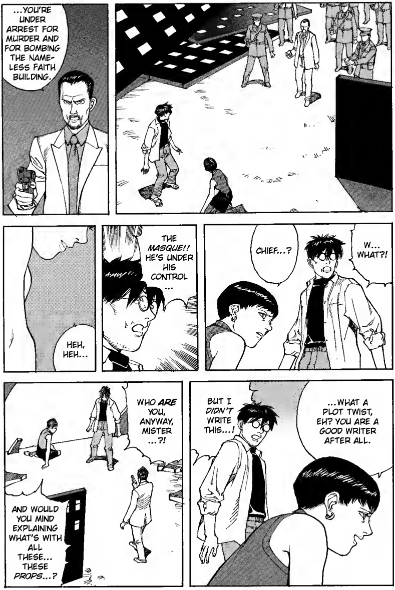

コオオオ
ROAAAAARRR
THOSE ...

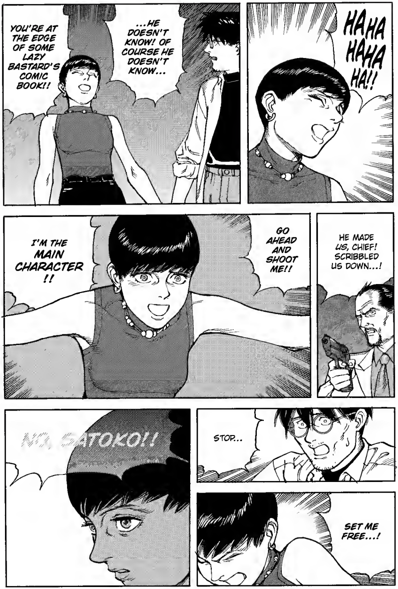

...THESE ARE MY PAGES.
I DREW THEM ALL.
LOOK!
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I DREW YOU.
BRINGS BACK MEMORIES ...
...
SO IT'S TRUE ...
...MY LIFE IS SOMEONE ELSE'S STORY.
BUT YOU'RE THE MAIN CHARACTER ...

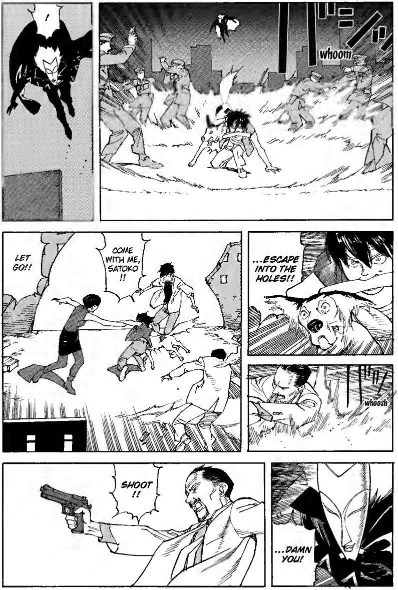

MAIN CHARACTER?
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS...?
THE PEOPLE WHO HURT AND BLED...?
AAA!
NO...!
...THE PEOPLE WHO DIED...?
NO, SATOKO
STAY OUT OF PEOPLE'S MINDS!!
ALL OUR SADNESS AND PAIN...IT WAS FOR WHAT?
blam
blam
IT WASN'T FOR ME. IT WASN'T FOR THEM.
IT WAS FOR *YOU.* WE'RE JUST YOUR TOYS TO PLAY WITH.
WELL... I'M A WRITER.

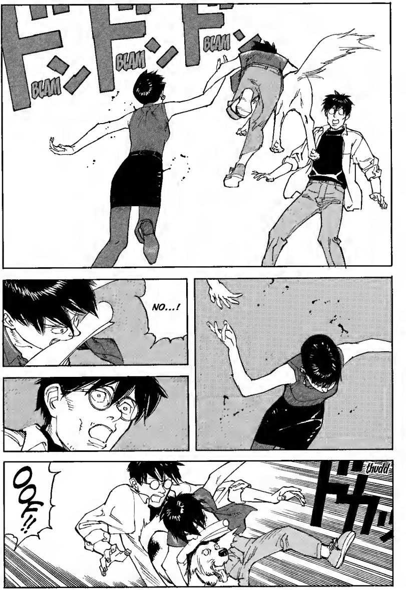

DOES THE STORY HAVE TO BE SO SAD...?
UM... WELL...
...I HAVE TO KEEP IT INTERESTING.
IS THAT WHY WE DIE?!
IT WOULD BE BORING IF WE WERE ALL JUST HAPPY...AND SO YOU TORTURE US...?
I'VE STRUGGLED MY WHOLE LIFE...
...AND IT WASN'T EVEN MY LIFE.
I STRUGGLED TO CREATE YOUR LIFE...
YOU STRUGGLED...
...TO CREATE SOMETHING ENTERTAINING!!

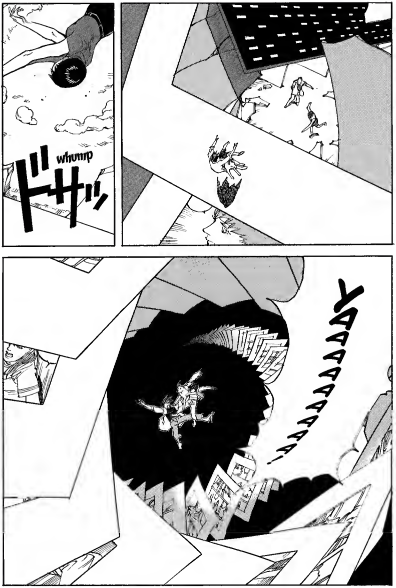

I'VE BLED... I'VE BEEN IN PAIN...
...BUT THAT HURTS WORSE THAN ANYTHING.
I'M SORRY ...
I NEVER THOUGHT ...I MEAN, HOW COULD I...?
DON'T TOUCH ME!! ALL OF THIS IS YOUR FAULT!!
smack
DON'T MOVE!!

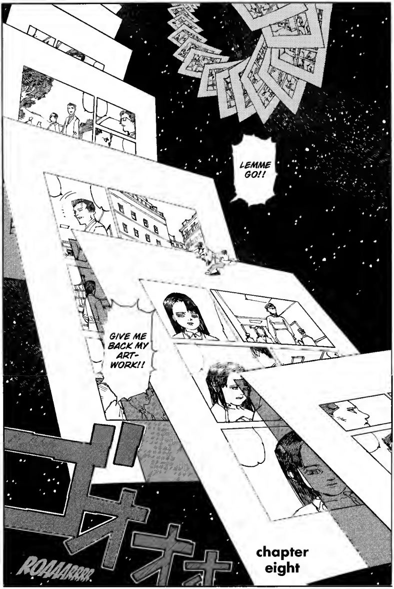

...YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR MURDER AND FOR BOMBING THE NAMELESS FAITH BUILDING.
HEH, HEH...
THE *MASQUE!!* HE'S UNDER HIS CONTROL ...
CHIEF...?
W... WHAT?!
WHO *ARE* YOU, ANYWAY, MISTER ...?!
AND WOULD YOU MIND EXPLAINING WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE... THESE *PROPS*...?
BUT I *DIDN'T* WRITE THIS...!
...WHAT A PLOT TWIST, EH? YOU ARE A GOOD WRITER AFTER ALL.


YOU'RE AT THE EDGE OF SOME LAZY BASTARD'S COMIC BOOK!!
...HE DOESN'T KNOW! OF COURSE HE DOESN'T KNOW...
HAHA HAHA HA!!
I'M THE MAIN CHARACTER!!
GO AHEAD AND SHOOT ME!!
HE MADE US, CHIEF! SCRIBBLED US DOWN...!
NO, SATOKO!!
STOP...
SET ME FREE...!

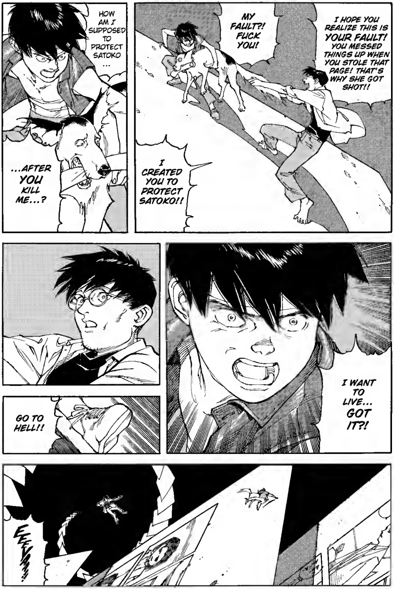

!
whoom
LET GO!!
COME WITH ME, SATOKO !!
...ESCAPE INTO THE HOLES!!
whoosh
SHOOT !!
...DAMN YOU!

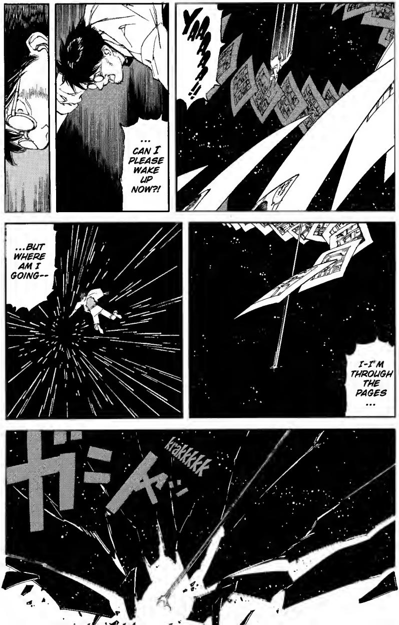

ドン
BLAM
ドン
BLAM
ドン
BLAM
NO...!
ドカッ
thudd!
OOF!!

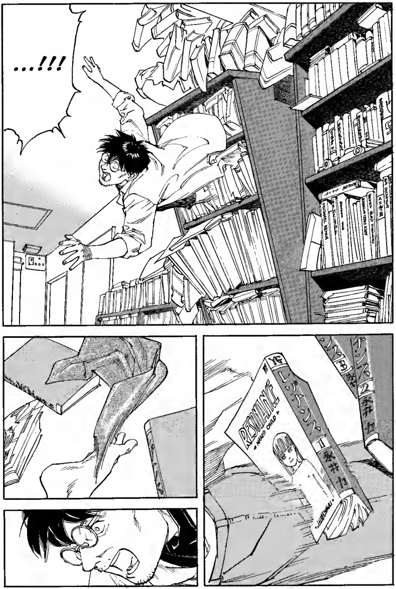

ドサッ
whump
YAAAAAAAAAA!

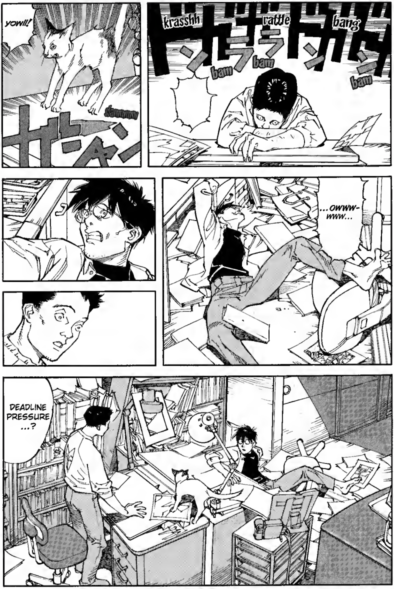

LEMME GO!!
GIVE ME BACK MY ART-WORK!!
ゴオオ
ROAAARRRR

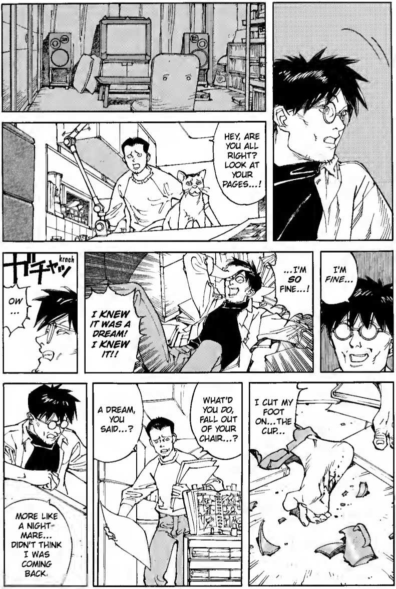
chapter eight

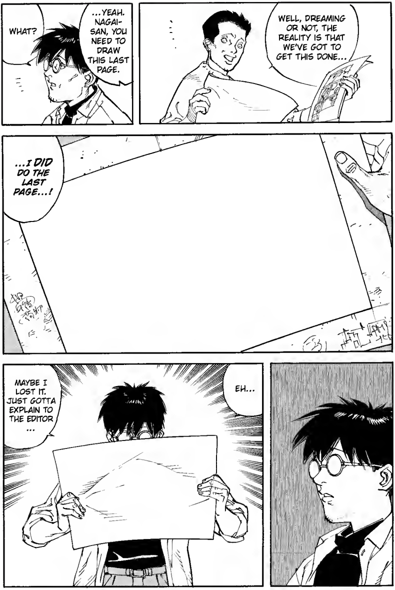

I HOPE YOU REALIZE THIS IS YOUR FAULT! YOU MESSED THINGS UP WHEN YOU STOLE THAT PAGE! THAT'S WHY SHE GOT SHOT!!
MY FAULT?! FUCK YOU!
I CREATED YOU TO PROTECT SATOKO!!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO PROTECT SATOKO ...
...AFTER YOU KILL ME...?
I WANT TO LIVE... GOT IT?!
GO TO HELL!!
EEYAA!!

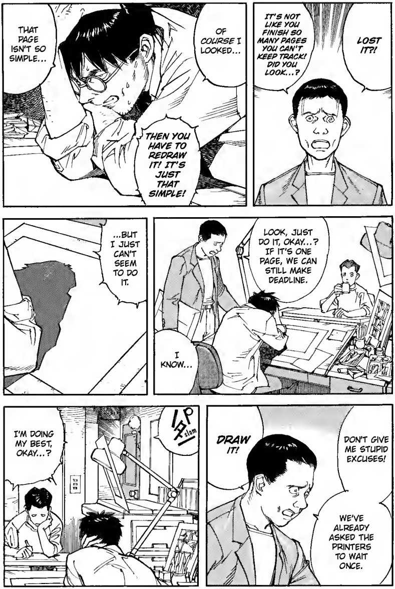

YAAAAAA!!
...CAN I PLEASE WAKE UP NOW?!
I-I'M THROUGH THE PAGES...
...BUT WHERE AM I GOING--
ガシャッ
krakkkkk

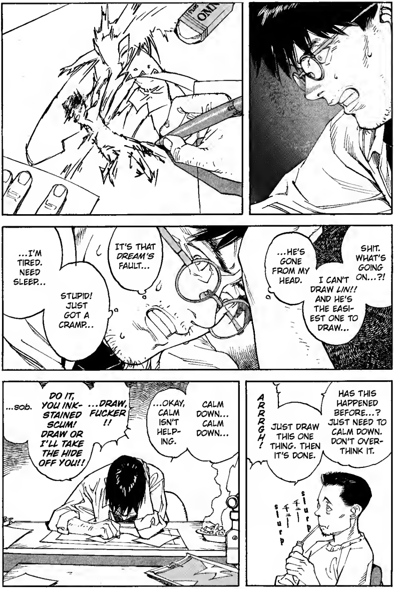

...!!!
YG
RESONANCE
NAKED CHILD
レゾナンス
II
永井力
ナンス 2
永井 力
ンス 下
永井

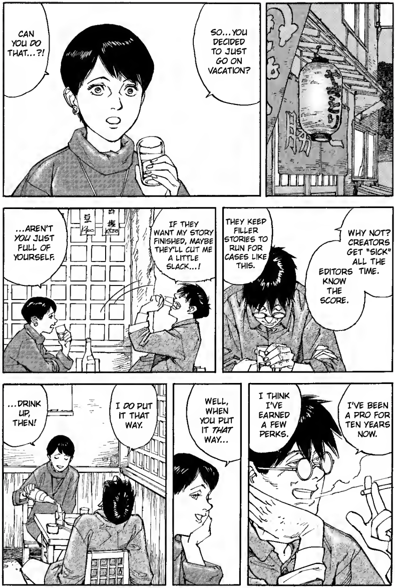

krasshh
rattle
bang
bam
bam
bam
yowl!
slammm
...owww-www...
DEADLINE PRESSURE ...?

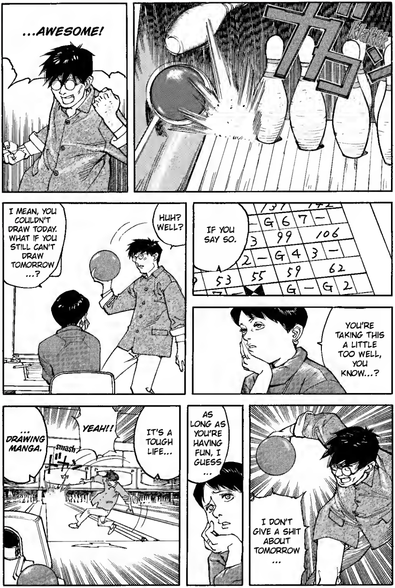

HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? LOOK AT YOUR PAGES...!
ガチャッ
krnch
OW...
I KNEW IT WAS A DREAM! I KNEW IT!!
...I'M SO FINE...!
I'M FINE...
MORE LIKE A NIGHTMARE... DIDN'T THINK I WAS COMING BACK.
A DREAM, YOU SAID...?
WHAT'D YOU DO, FALL OUT OF YOUR CHAIR...?
I CUT MY FOOT ON...THE CUP...

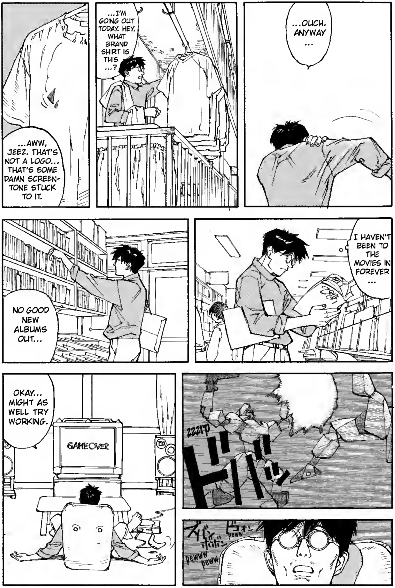

WHAT?
...YEAH. NAGAI-SAN, YOU NEED TO DRAW THIS LAST PAGE.
WELL, DREAMING OR NOT, THE REALITY IS THAT WE'VE GOT TO GET THIS DONE...
...I DID DO THE LAST PAGE...!
MAYBE I LOST IT. JUST GOTTA EXPLAIN TO THE EDITOR ...
EH...

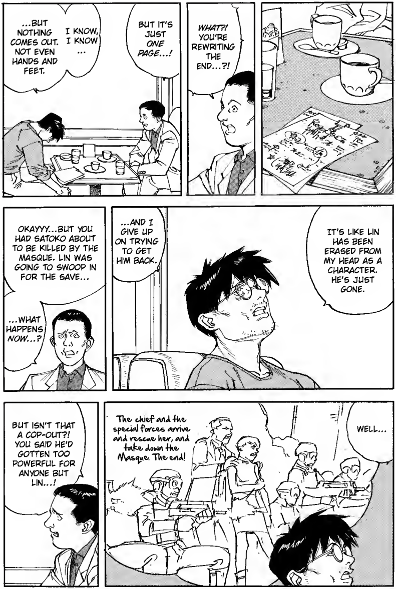

LOST IT?!
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU FINISH SO MANY PAGES YOU CAN'T KEEP TRACK! DID YOU LOOK...?
OF COURSE I LOOKED...
THEN YOU HAVE TO REDRAW IT! IT'S JUST THAT SIMPLE!
THAT PAGE ISN'T SO SIMPLE...
LOOK, JUST DO IT, OKAY...? IF IT'S ONE PAGE, WE CAN STILL MAKE DEADLINE.
I KNOW...
...BUT I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO DO IT.
DON'T GIVE ME STUPID EXCUSES!
DRAW IT!
WE'VE ALREADY ASKED THE PRINTERS TO WAIT ONCE.
パター
slam
I'M DOING MY BEST, OKAY...?

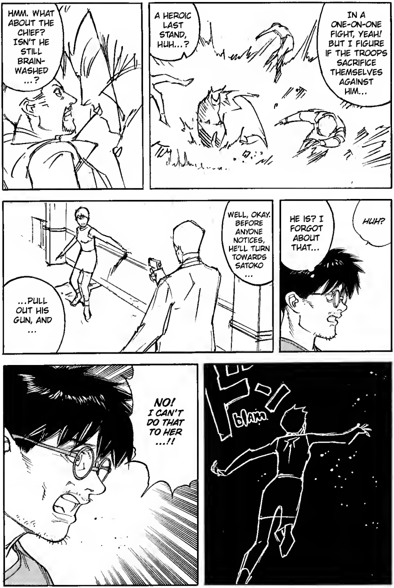

MONO
SHIT. WHAT'S GOING ON...?!
...HE'S GONE FROM MY HEAD.
I CAN'T DRAW *LIN!!* AND HE'S THE EASIEST ONE TO DRAW...
IT'S THAT *DREAM'S* FAULT...
...I'M TIRED. NEED SLEEP...
STUPID! JUST GOT A CRAMP...
ARRRGH!
HAS THIS HAPPENED BEFORE...? JUST NEED TO CALM DOWN. DON'T OVER-THINK IT.
JUST DRAW THIS ONE THING. THEN IT'S DONE.
slurp チュー
slurp チュー
CALM DOWN... CALM DOWN...
...OKAY, CALM ISN'T HELPING.
...DRAW, FUCKER!!
DO IT, YOU INK-STAINED SCUM! DRAW OR I'LL TAKE THE HIDE OFF YOU!!
...sob.

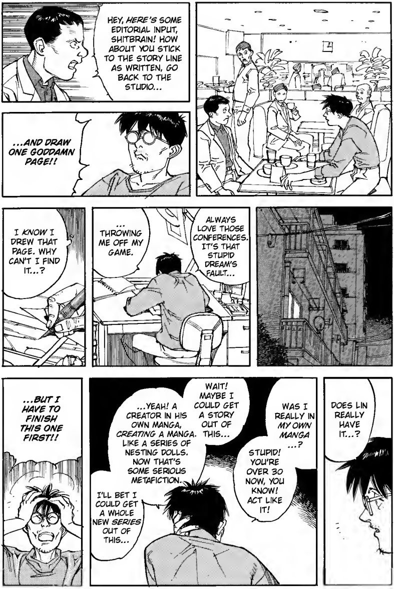

SO... YOU DECIDED TO JUST GO ON VACATION?
CAN YOU *DO* THAT...?!
WHY NOT? CREATORS GET "SICK" ALL THE TIME. EDITORS KNOW THE SCORE.
THEY KEEP FILLER STORIES TO RUN FOR CASES LIKE THIS.
IF THEY WANT MY STORY FINISHED, MAYBE THEY'LL CUT ME A LITTLE SLACK...!
...AREN'T *YOU* JUST FULL OF YOURSELF.
I'VE BEEN A PRO FOR TEN YEARS NOW.
I THINK I'VE EARNED A FEW PERKS.
WELL, WHEN YOU PUT IT *THAT* WAY...
I *DO* PUT IT THAT WAY.
...DRINK UP, THEN!

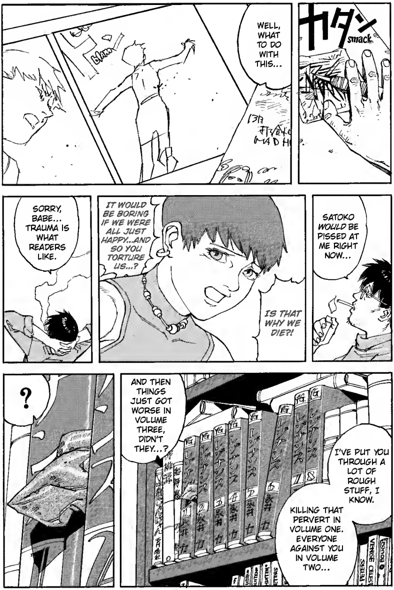

...AWESOME!
ガコン
klakkk
I MEAN, YOU COULDN'T DRAW TODAY. WHAT IF YOU STILL CAN'T DRAW TOMORROW ...?
HUH? WELL?
IF YOU SAY SO.
G 6 7 —
3 99 106
2 — G 4 3 —
53 55 59 62
G — G 2
YOU'RE TAKING THIS A LITTLE TOO WELL, YOU KNOW...?
IT'S A TOUGH LIFE...
... DRAWING MANGA.
YEAH!!
smash
AS LONG AS YOU'RE HAVING FUN, I GUESS ...
I DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT TOMORROW ...

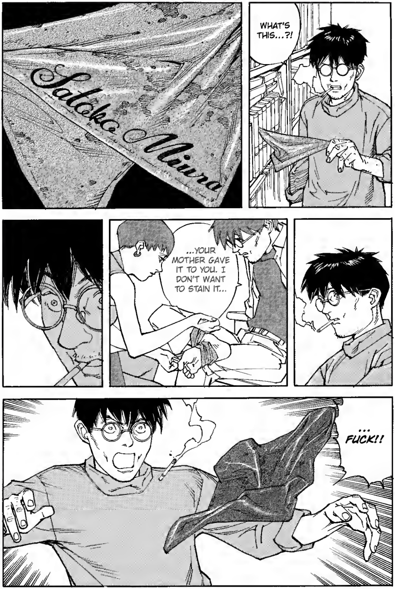

...I'M GOING OUT TODAY. HEY, WHAT BRAND SHIRT IS THIS ...?
...AWW, JEEZ. THAT'S NOT A LOGO... THAT'S SOME DAMN SCREEN-TONE STUCK TO IT.
...OUCH. ANYWAY ...
NO GOOD NEW ALBUMS OUT...
I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE MOVIES IN FOREVER ...
OKAY... MIGHT AS WELL TRY WORKING.
GAMEOVER
zzzrp
ドババ
ズバン
ボボボン
ピオン
pewww
pewwww
pewww

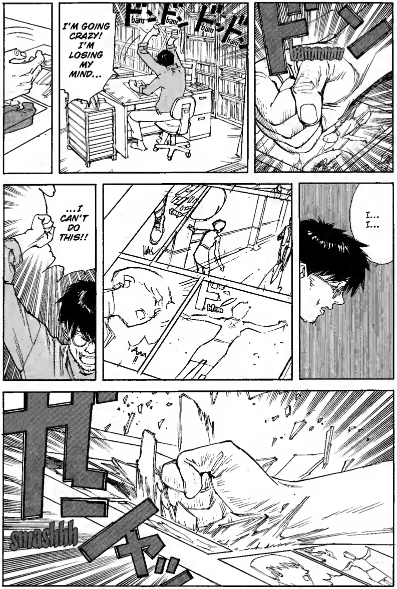

WHAT?! YOU'RE REWRITING THE END...?!
BUT IT'S JUST ONE PAGE...!
I KNOW, I KNOW...
...BUT NOTHING COMES OUT. NOT EVEN HANDS AND FEET.
IT'S LIKE LIN HAS BEEN ERASED FROM MY HEAD AS A CHARACTER. HE'S JUST GONE.
...AND I GIVE UP ON TRYING TO GET HIM BACK.
OKAYYY...BUT YOU HAD SATOKO ABOUT TO BE KILLED BY THE MASQUE. LIN WAS GOING TO SWOOP IN FOR THE SAVE...
...WHAT HAPPENS NOW...?
WELL...
The chief and the special forces arrive and rescue her, and take down the Masque. The end!
BUT ISN'T THAT A COP-OUT?! YOU SAID HE'D GOTTEN TOO POWERFUL FOR ANYONE BUT LIN...!

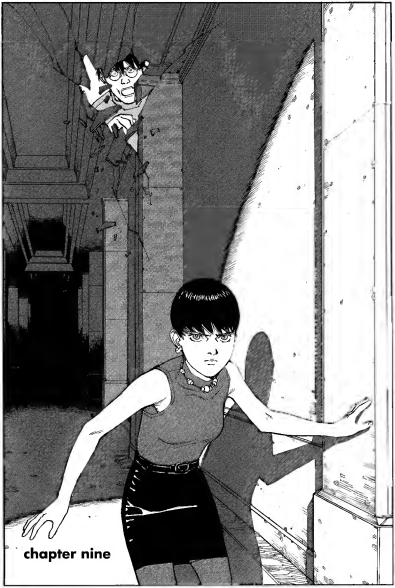

IN A ONE-ON-ONE FIGHT, YEAH! BUT I FIGURE IF THE TROOPS SACRIFICE THEMSELVES AGAINST HIM...
A HEROIC LAST STAND, HUH...?
HMM. WHAT ABOUT THE CHIEF? ISN'T HE STILL BRAINWASHED ...?
HUH?
HE IS? I FORGOT ABOUT THAT...
WELL, OKAY. BEFORE ANYONE NOTICES, HE'LL TURN TOWARDS SATOKO ...
...PULL OUT HIS GUN, AND ...
BLAM
NO! I CAN'T DO THAT TO HER ...!!


HEY, *HERE'S* SOME EDITORIAL INPUT, SHITBRAIN! HOW ABOUT YOU STICK TO THE STORY LINE AS WRITTEN, GO BACK TO THE STUDIO...
...AND DRAW ONE GODDAMN PAGE!!
ALWAYS LOVE THOSE CONFERENCES. IT'S THAT STUPID DREAM'S FAULT...
...THROWING ME OFF MY GAME.
I *KNOW* I DREW THAT PAGE. WHY CAN'T I FIND IT...?
DOES LIN REALLY HAVE IT...?
WAS I REALLY IN *MY OWN MANGA* ...?
STUPID! YOU'RE OVER 30 NOW, YOU KNOW! ACT LIKE IT!
WAIT! MAYBE I COULD GET A STORY OUT OF THIS...
...YEAH! A CREATOR IN HIS OWN MANGA, *CREATING* A MANGA. LIKE A SERIES OF NESTING DOLLS. NOW THAT'S SOME SERIOUS METAFICTION.
I'LL BET I COULD GET A WHOLE NEW *SERIES* OUT OF THIS...
...BUT I HAVE TO FINISH THIS ONE FIRST!!

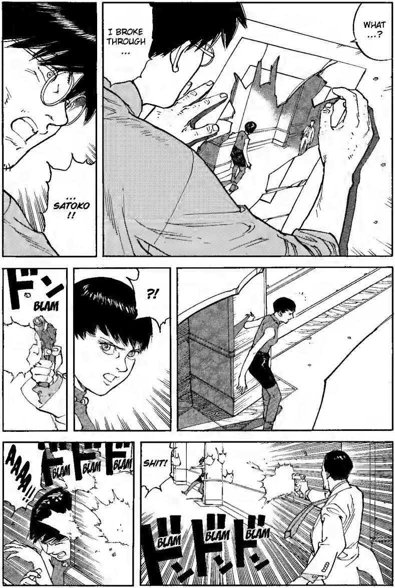

カタン
smack
WELL, WHAT TO DO WITH THIS...
blam
SATOKO *WOULD* BE PISSED AT ME RIGHT NOW...
IT WOULD BE BORING IF WE WERE ALL JUST HAPPY...AND SO YOU TORTURE US...?
IS THAT WHY WE DIE?!
SORRY, BABE... TRAUMA IS WHAT READERS LIKE.
I'VE PUT YOU THROUGH A LOT OF ROUGH STUFF, I KNOW.
KILLING THAT PERVERT IN VOLUME ONE. EVERYONE AGAINST YOU IN VOLUME TWO...
AND THEN THINGS JUST GOT WORSE IN VOLUME THREE, DIDN'T THEY...?
?

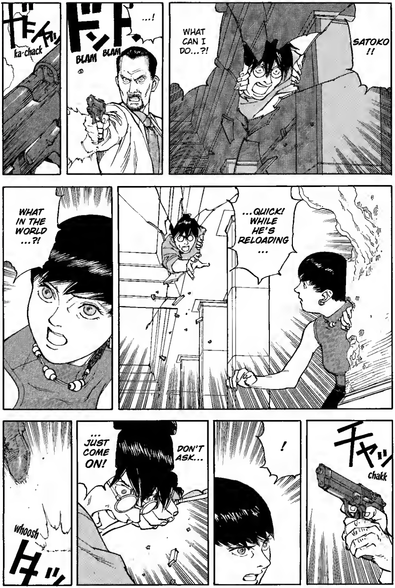

Satoko Miura
WHAT'S THIS...?!
...YOUR MOTHER GAVE IT TO YOU. I DON'T WANT TO STAIN IT...
...FUCK!!

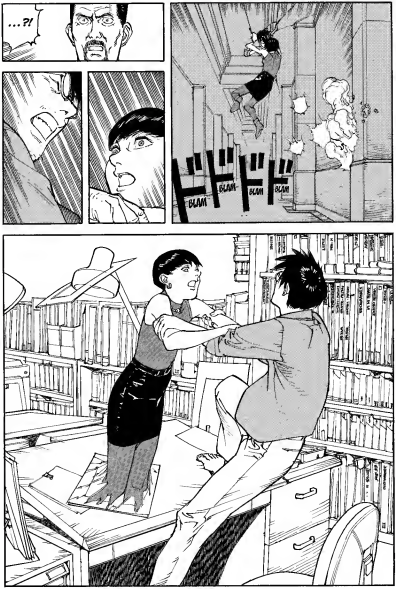

ド
bammmm
ドドドド
bam bam bam bam
I'M GOING CRAZY! I'M LOSING MY MIND...
I... I...
tmp
ドン
blam
Aaa!!
...I CAN'T DO THIS!!
ガシャッ
smashhh

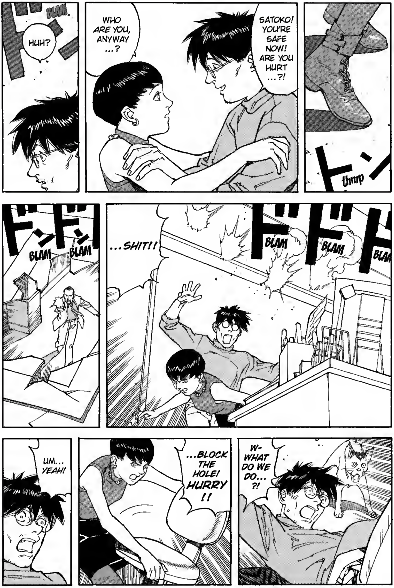


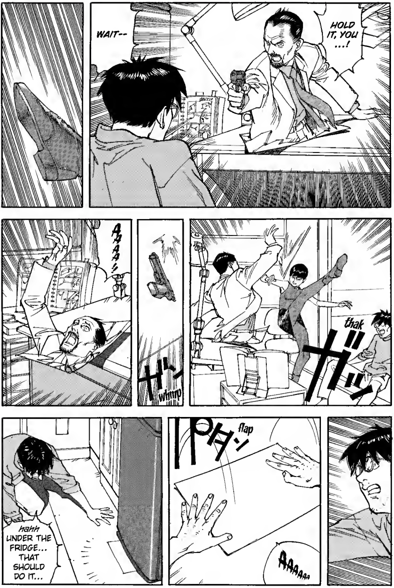
chapter nine

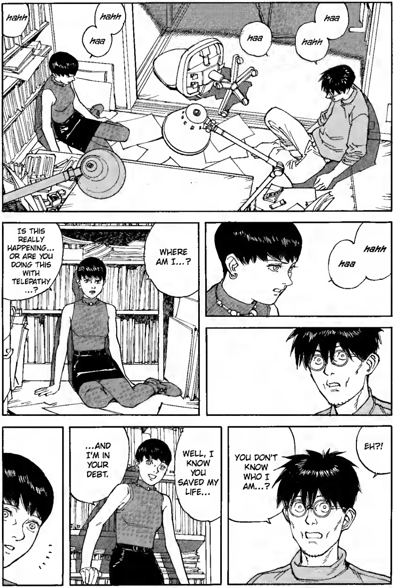

WHAT ...?
I BROKE THROUGH ...
... SATOKO !!
?!
ドン
BLAM
SHIT!
ドドドド
BLAM BLAM BLAM
AAAA!!
ドドドド
BLAM BLAM BLAM

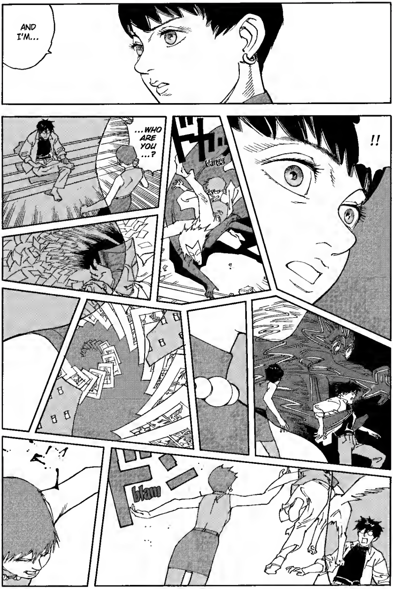

SATOKO !!
WHAT CAN I DO...?!
...!
ドンドン
BLAM BLAM
ガチャッ
ka-chack
...QUICK! WHILE HE'S RELOADING ...
WHAT IN THE WORLD ...?!
チャッ
chakk
!
DON'T ASK...
... JUST COME ON!
whoosh
タッ

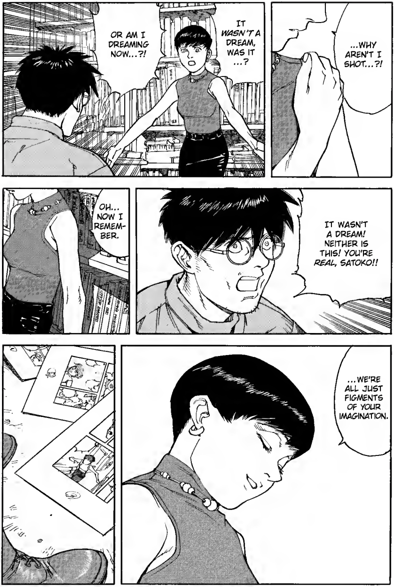

...?!
ドドドド
BLAM
BLAM-
BLAM
BLAM

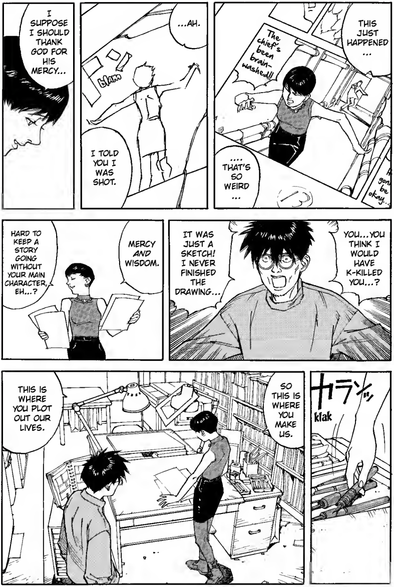

トン
thmp
SATOKO! YOU'RE SAFE NOW! ARE YOU HURT ...?!
WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY ...?
ド
BLAM
HUH?
ドドド
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
...SHIT!!
ドンドン
BLAM
BLAM
W-WHAT DO WE DO... ?!
...BLOCK THE HOLE! HURRY !!
UM... YEAH!

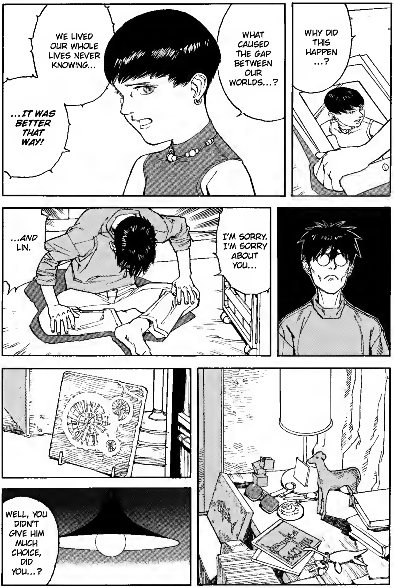

HOLD IT, YOU ...!
WAIT--
thak
ガッ
ガン
whmp
AAAAA!!
パタン
flap
AAAaaa
hahh
UNDER THE FRIDGE... THAT SHOULD DO IT...

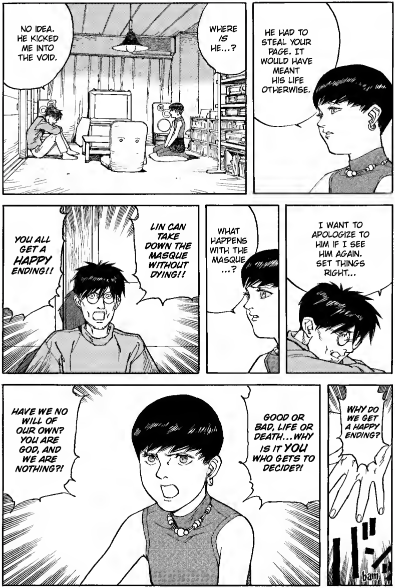

haa
hahh
haa
hahh
haa
hahh
hahh
haa
WHERE AM I...?
IS THIS REALLY HAPPENING... OR ARE YOU DOING THIS WITH TELEPATHY ...?
EH?!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I AM...?
WELL, I KNOW YOU SAVED MY LIFE...
...AND I'M IN YOUR DEBT.
.....

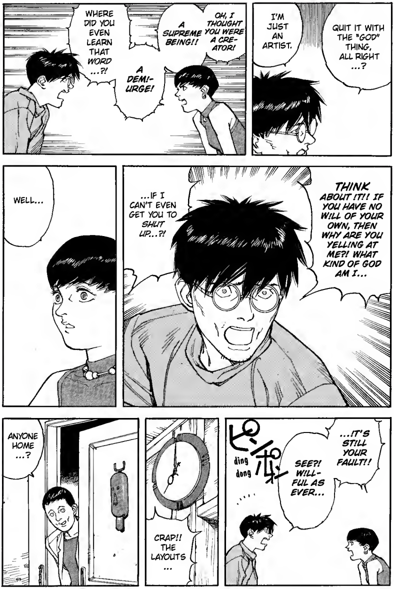

AND I'M...
...WHO ARE YOU ...?
klangg
!!
blam

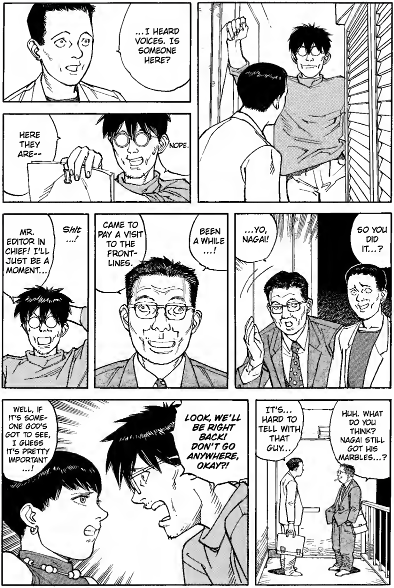

OR AM I DREAMING NOW...?!
IT *WASN'T* A DREAM, WAS IT ...?
...WHY AREN'T I SHOT...?!
OH... NOW I REMEMBER.
IT WASN'T A DREAM! NEITHER IS THIS! YOU'RE *REAL*, SATOKO!!
...WE'RE ALL JUST FIGMENTS OF YOUR IMAGINATION.

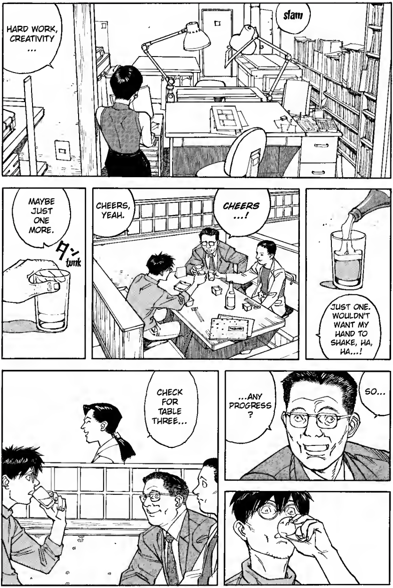

THIS JUST HAPPENED ...
The chief's been brain-washed!!
gon be okay...
.... THAT'S SO WEIRD ...
...AH.
blam
I TOLD YOU I WAS SHOT.
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD THANK GOD FOR HIS MERCY...
YOU...YOU THINK I WOULD HAVE K-KILLED YOU...?
IT WAS JUST A SKETCH! I NEVER FINISHED THE DRAWING...
MERCY AND WISDOM.
HARD TO KEEP A STORY GOING WITHOUT YOUR MAIN CHARACTER, EH...?
カランッ
klak
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU MAKE US.
THIS IS WHERE YOU PLOT OUT OUR LIVES.

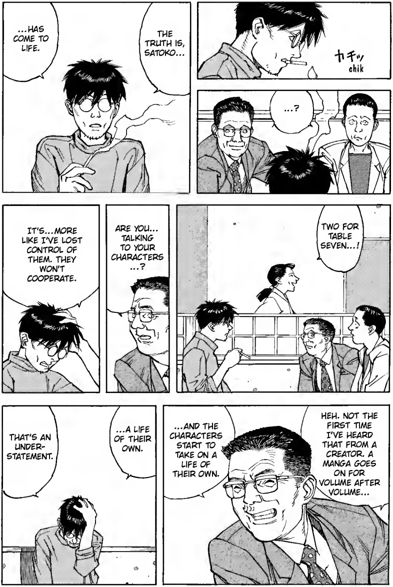

WE LIVED OUR WHOLE LIVES NEVER KNOWING...
...IT WAS BETTER THAT WAY!
WHAT CAUSED THE GAP BETWEEN OUR WORLDS...?
WHY DID THIS HAPPEN ...?
...AND LIN.
I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY ABOUT YOU...
WELL, YOU DIDN'T GIVE HIM MUCH CHOICE, DID YOU...?

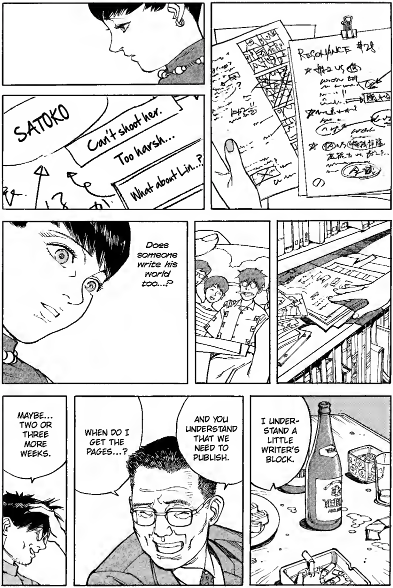

HE HAD TO STEAL YOUR PAGE. IT WOULD HAVE MEANT HIS LIFE OTHERWISE.
WHERE IS HE...?
NO IDEA. HE KICKED ME INTO THE VOID.
I WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO HIM IF I SEE HIM AGAIN. SET THINGS RIGHT...
WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE MASQUE...?
LIN CAN TAKE DOWN THE MASQUE WITHOUT DYING!!
YOU ALL GET A HAPPY ENDING!!
WHY DO WE GET A HAPPY ENDING?
bam
GOOD OR BAD, LIFE OR DEATH...WHY IS IT YOU WHO GETS TO DECIDE?!
HAVE WE NO WILL OF OUR OWN? YOU ARE GOD, AND WE ARE NOTHING?!

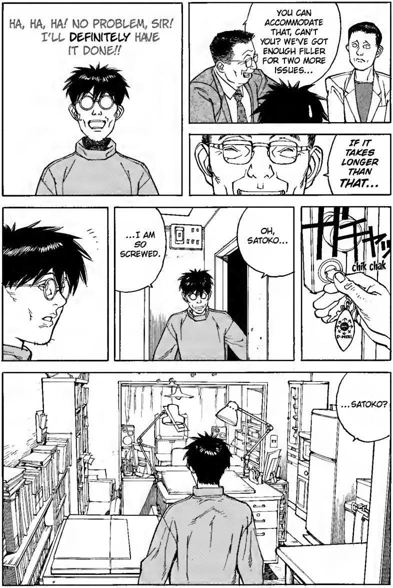

QUIT IT WITH THE "GOD" THING, ALL RIGHT ...?
I'M JUST AN ARTIST.
OH, I THOUGHT YOU WERE A CREATOR!
A SUPREME BEING!!
A DEMIURGE!
WHERE DID YOU EVEN LEARN THAT WORD ...?!
THINK ABOUT IT!! IF YOU HAVE NO WILL OF YOUR OWN, THEN WHY ARE YOU YELLING AT ME?! WHAT KIND OF GOD AM I...
...IF I CAN'T EVEN GET YOU TO SHUT UP...?!
WELL...
...IT'S STILL YOUR FAULT!!
SEE?! WILLFUL AS EVER...
ピンポン
ding dong
.....
CRAP!! THE LAYOUTS ...
ANYONE HOME ...?


...I HEARD VOICES. IS SOMEONE HERE?
NOPE.
HERE THEY ARE--
Shit ...!
MR. EDITOR IN CHIEF! I'LL JUST BE A MOMENT...
BEEN A WHILE ...!
CAME TO PAY A VISIT TO THE FRONT-LINES.
SO YOU DID IT...?
...YO, NAGAI!
LOOK, WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK! DON'T GO ANYWHERE, OKAY?!
WELL, IF IT'S SOME-ONE GOD'S GOT TO SEE, I GUESS IT'S PRETTY IMPORTANT ...!
HUH. WHAT DO YOU THINK? NAGAI STILL GOT HIS MARBLES...?
IT'S... HARD TO TELL WITH THAT GUY...

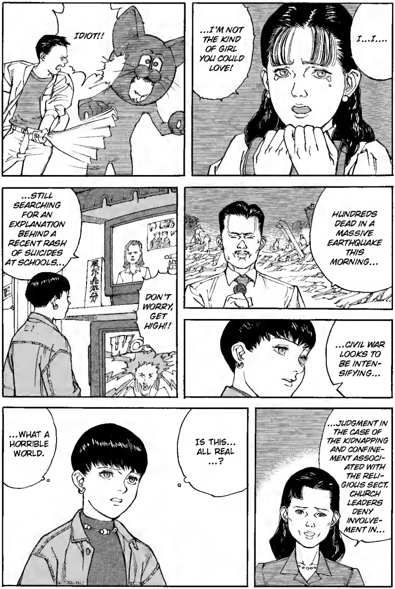

HARD WORK, CREATIVITY ...
slam
MAYBE JUST ONE MORE.
タン
tunk
CHEERS, YEAH.
CHEERS ...!
JUST ONE. WOULDN'T WANT MY HAND TO SHAKE, HA, HA...!
CHECK FOR TABLE THREE...
SO...
...ANY PROGRESS ?

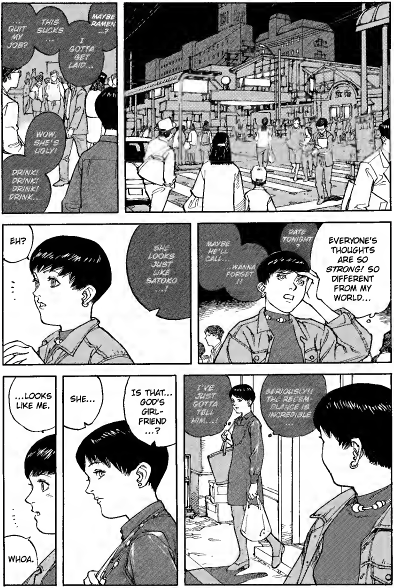

カチッ
chik
...?
THE TRUTH IS, SATOKO...
...HAS COME TO LIFE.
TWO FOR TABLE SEVEN...!
ARE YOU... TALKING TO YOUR CHARACTERS...?
IT'S... MORE LIKE I'VE LOST CONTROL OF THEM. THEY WON'T COOPERATE.
HEH. NOT THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD THAT FROM A CREATOR. A MANGA GOES ON FOR VOLUME AFTER VOLUME...
...AND THE CHARACTERS START TO TAKE ON A LIFE OF THEIR OWN.
...A LIFE OF THEIR OWN.
THAT'S AN UNDERSTATEMENT.

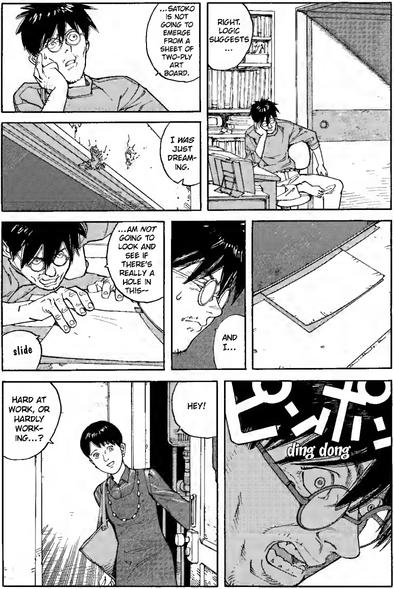

RESONANCE #28
SATOKO
Can't shoot her.
Too harsh...
What about Lin..?
Does someone write his world too...?
I UNDERSTAND A LITTLE WRITER'S BLOCK.
AND YOU UNDERSTAND THAT WE NEED TO PUBLISH.
WHEN DO I GET THE PAGES...?
MAYBE... TWO OR THREE MORE WEEKS.

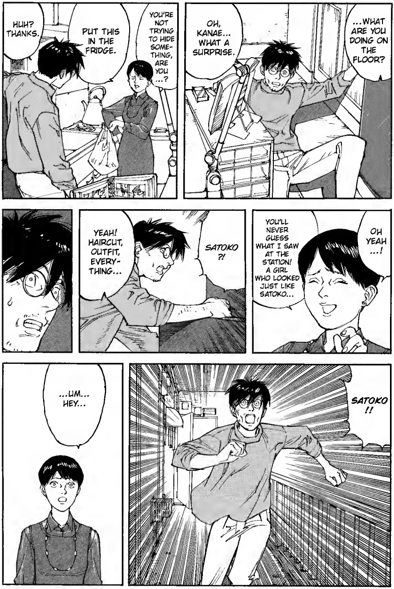

YOU CAN ACCOMMODATE THAT, CAN'T YOU? WE'VE GOT ENOUGH FILLER FOR TWO MORE ISSUES...
IF IT TAKES LONGER THAN THAT...
HA, HA, HA! NO PROBLEM, SIR! I'LL DEFINITELY HAVE IT DONE!!
chik chak
OH, SATOKO...
...I AM SO SCREWED.
...SATOKO?

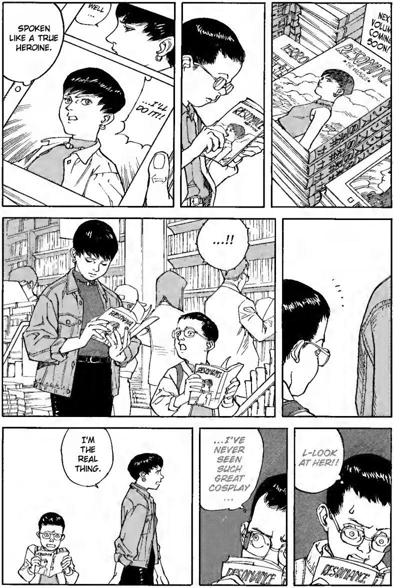
chapter ten

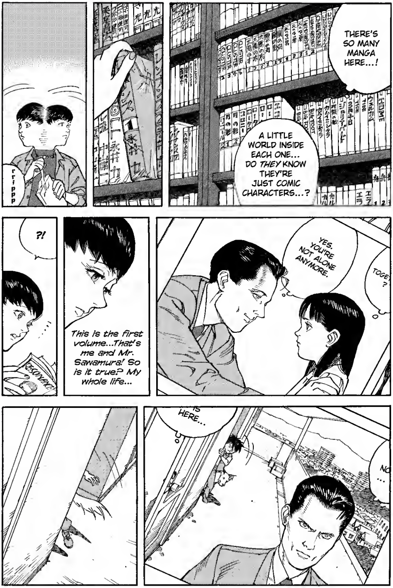

IDIOT!!
...I'M NOT THE KIND OF GIRL YOU COULD LOVE!
I...I....
...STILL SEARCHING FOR AN EXPLANATION BEHIND A RECENT RASH OF SUICIDES AT SCHOOLS...
DON'T WORRY, GET HIGH!!
HUNDREDS DEAD IN A MASSIVE EARTHQUAKE THIS MORNING...
...CIVIL WAR LOOKS TO BE INTENSIFYING...
...WHAT A HORRIBLE WORLD.
IS THIS... ALL REAL ...?
...JUDGMENT IN THE CASE OF THE KIDNAPPING AND CONFINEMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE RELIGIOUS SECT. CHURCH LEADERS DENY INVOLVEMENT IN...

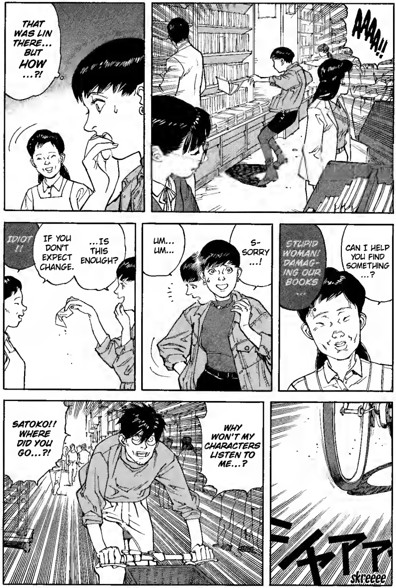

MAYBE RAMEN ...?
I GOTTA GET LAID...
THIS SUCKS ...
... QUIT MY JOB?
WOW, SHE'S UGLY!
DRINK! DRINK! DRINK! DRINK...
DATE TONIGHT?
EVERYONE'S THOUGHTS ARE SO *STRONG!* SO DIFFERENT FROM MY WORLD...
MAYBE HE'LL CALL...
...WANNA FORGET!!
SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE SATOKO ...!
EH?
SERIOUSLY!! THE RESEMBLANCE IS INCREDIBLE ...
I'VE JUST GOTTA TELL HIM...!
IS THAT... GOD'S GIRLFRIEND ...?
SHE...
...LOOKS LIKE ME.
WHOA.

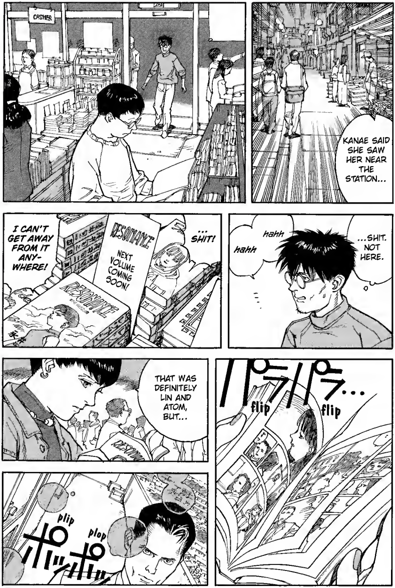

RIGHT. LOGIC SUGGESTS ...
...SATOKO IS NOT GOING TO EMERGE FROM A SHEET OF TWO-PLY ART BOARD.
I *WAS* JUST DREAMING.
AND I...
...AM *NOT* GOING TO LOOK AND SEE IF THERE'S REALLY A HOLE IN THIS--
slide
ding dong
HEY!
HARD AT WORK, OR HARDLY WORKING...?

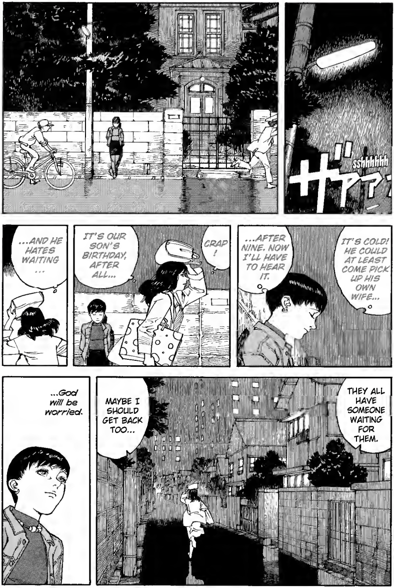

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THE FLOOR?
OH, KANAE... WHAT A SURPRISE.
YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING, ARE YOU ...?
PUT THIS IN THE FRIDGE.
HUH? THANKS.
OH YEAH ...!
YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT I SAW AT THE STATION! A GIRL WHO LOOKED JUST LIKE SATOKO...
SATOKO ?!
YEAH! HAIRCUT, OUTFIT, EVERYTHING...
SATOKO !!
...UM... HEY...

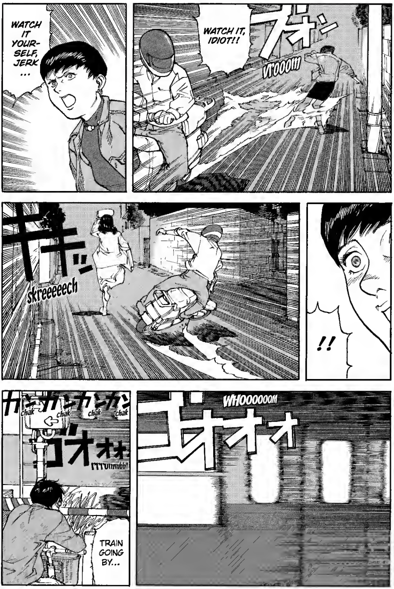

NEXT VOLUME COMING SOON!
RESONANCE
...I'LL DO IT!!
WELL ...
SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE HEROINE.
RESONANCE
...
...!!
RESONANCE
L-LOOK AT HER!!
...I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH GREAT COSPLAY ...
I'M THE REAL THING.
RESONANCE

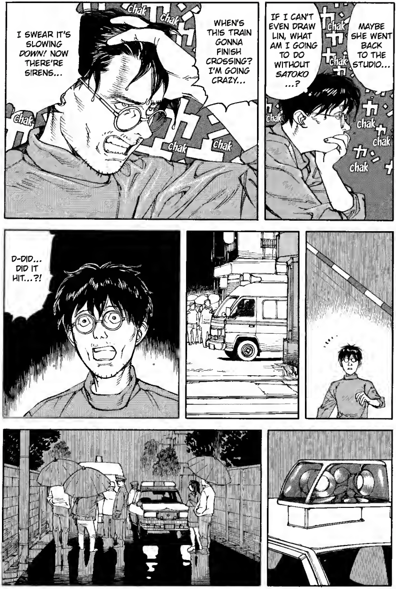

THERE'S SO MANY MANGA HERE...!
A LITTLE WORLD INSIDE EACH ONE... DO *THEY* KNOW THEY'RE JUST COMIC CHARACTERS...?
rrippp
YES. YOU'RE NOT ALONE ANYMORE.
TOGE ?
This is the first volume...That's me and Mr. Sawamura! So is it true? My whole life...
RESONANCE
...
?!
NO ...
IS HERE...

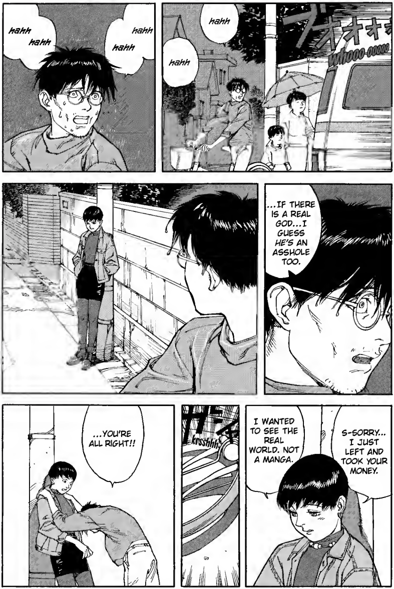

THAT WAS LIN THERE... BUT HOW...?!
AAAA!!
IDIOT!!
IF YOU DON'T EXPECT CHANGE.
...IS THIS ENOUGH?
UM... UM...
S-SORRY...!
STUPID WOMAN! DAMAGING OUR BOOKS...
CAN I HELP YOU FIND SOMETHING...?
SATOKO!! WHERE DID YOU GO...?!
WHY WON'T MY CHARACTERS LISTEN TO ME...?
キャア
skreeee

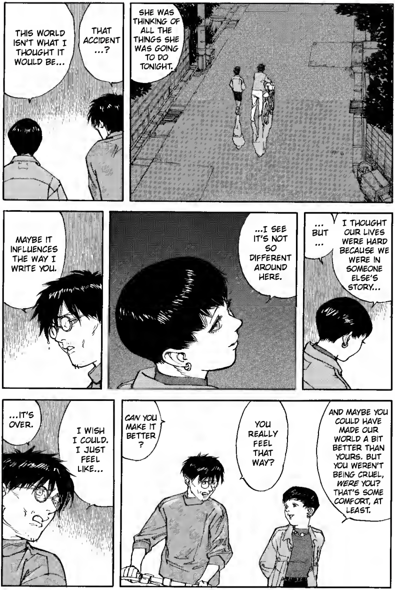

CASHIER
KANAE SAID SHE SAW HER NEAR THE STATION...
I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM IT ANYWHERE!
RESONANCE
NEXT VOLUME COMING SOON!
...SHIT!
RESONANCE
hahh
hahh
...SHIT. NOT HERE.
THAT WAS DEFINITELY LIN AND ATOM, BUT...
RESONANCE
パラパラ...
flip
flip
plip
plop
ポツポツ

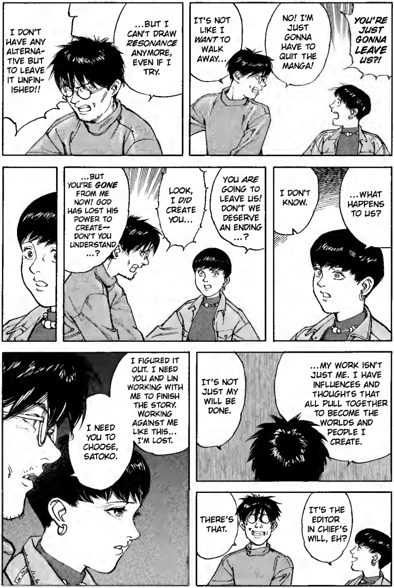

ザァァ
sshhhhhh
IT'S COLD! HE COULD AT LEAST COME PICK UP HIS OWN WIFE...
...AFTER NINE. NOW I'LL HAVE TO HEAR IT.
CRAP!
IT'S OUR SON'S BIRTHDAY, AFTER ALL...
...AND HE HATES WAITING...
THEY ALL HAVE SOMEONE WAITING FOR THEM.
MAYBE I SHOULD GET BACK TOO...
...God will be worried.

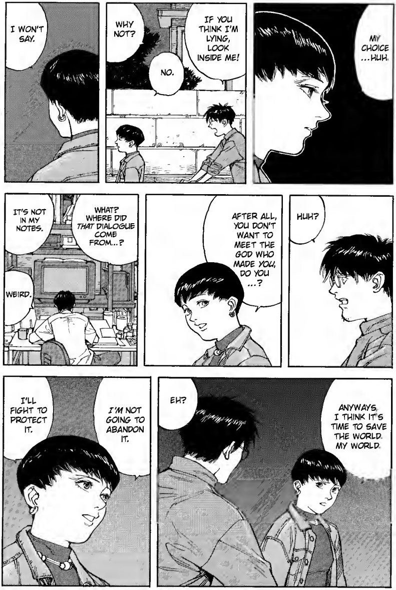

ブオン
WATCH IT, IDIOT!!
vroooom
WATCH IT YOURSELF, JERK...
!!
キキッ
skreeeeech
ゴオオオ
WHOOOOOOM
カンカンカンカン
chak chak chak chak
ゴオオォ
rrrummbbll
TRAIN GOING BY...

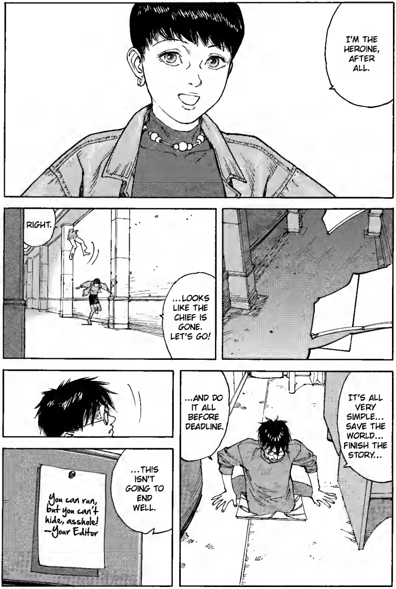

MAYBE SHE WENT BACK TO THE STUDIO...
IF I CAN'T EVEN DRAW LIN, WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITHOUT *SATOKO* ...?
chak
カン
WHEN'S THIS TRAIN GONNA FINISH CROSSING? I'M GOING CRAZY...
I SWEAR IT'S SLOWING *DOWN!* NOW THERE'RE SIRENS...
chak
D-DID... DID IT HIT...?!

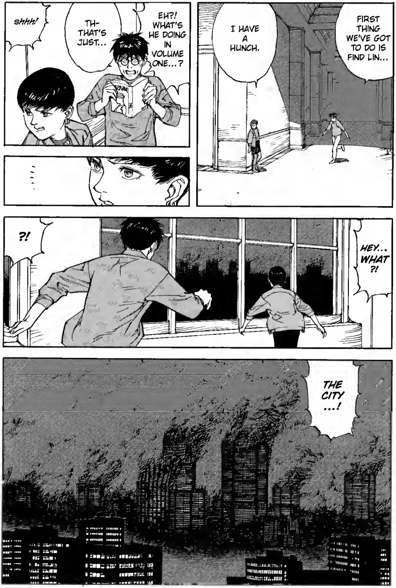

whooo-ooooo
hahh
hahh
hahh
hahh
hahh
hahh
...IF THERE IS A REAL GOD...I GUESS HE'S AN ASSHOLE TOO.
S-SORRY... I JUST LEFT AND TOOK YOUR MONEY.
I WANTED TO SEE THE REAL WORLD. NOT A MANGA.
krsshhh
...YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!!


THIS WORLD ISN'T WHAT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE...
THAT ACCIDENT ...?
SHE WAS THINKING OF ALL THE THINGS SHE WAS GOING TO DO TONIGHT.
MAYBE IT INFLUENCES THE WAY I WRITE YOU.
...I SEE IT'S NOT SO DIFFERENT AROUND HERE.
... BUT ...
I THOUGHT OUR LIVES WERE HARD BECAUSE WE WERE IN SOMEONE ELSE'S STORY...
...IT'S OVER.
I WISH I COULD. I JUST FEEL LIKE...
CAN YOU MAKE IT BETTER?
YOU REALLY FEEL THAT WAY?
AND MAYBE YOU COULD HAVE MADE OUR WORLD A BIT BETTER THAN YOURS. BUT YOU WEREN'T BEING CRUEL, *WERE YOU?* THAT'S SOME COMFORT, AT LEAST.

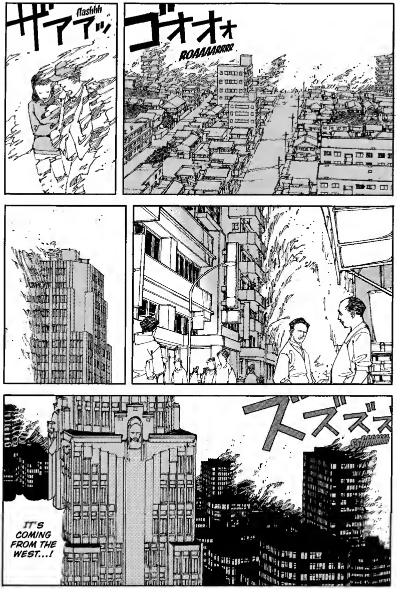

YOU'RE JUST GONNA LEAVE US?!
NO! I'M JUST GONNA HAVE TO QUIT THE MANGA!
IT'S NOT LIKE I *WANT* TO WALK AWAY...
...BUT I CAN'T DRAW *RESONANCE* ANYMORE, EVEN IF I TRY.
I DON'T HAVE ANY ALTERNATIVE BUT TO LEAVE IT UNFINISHED!!
...WHAT HAPPENS TO US?
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU *ARE* GOING TO LEAVE US! DON'T WE DESERVE AN ENDING ...?
LOOK, I *DID* CREATE YOU...
...BUT YOU'RE *GONE* FROM ME NOW! GOD HAS LOST HIS POWER TO CREATE-- DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND ...?
...MY WORK ISN'T JUST ME. I HAVE INFLUENCES AND THOUGHTS THAT ALL PULL TOGETHER TO BECOME THE WORLDS AND PEOPLE I CREATE.
IT'S NOT JUST MY WILL BE DONE.
I FIGURED IT OUT. I NEED YOU AND LIN WORKING WITH ME TO FINISH THE STORY. WORKING AGAINST ME LIKE THIS... I'M LOST.
I NEED YOU TO CHOOSE, SATOKO.
IT'S THE EDITOR IN CHIEF'S WILL, EH?
THERE'S THAT.

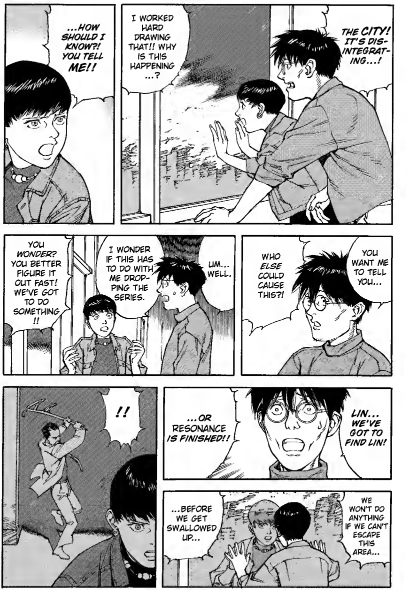

I WON'T SAY.
WHY NOT?
IF YOU THINK I'M LYING, LOOK INSIDE ME!
NO.
MY CHOICE ...HUH.
IT'S NOT IN MY NOTES.
WHAT? WHERE DID *THAT* DIALOGUE COME FROM...?
WEIRD.
AFTER ALL, YOU DON'T WANT TO MEET THE GOD WHO MADE *YOU*, DO YOU ...?
HUH?
I'LL FIGHT TO PROTECT IT.
I'M NOT GOING TO ABANDON IT.
EH?
ANYWAYS, I THINK IT'S TIME TO SAVE THE WORLD. MY WORLD.

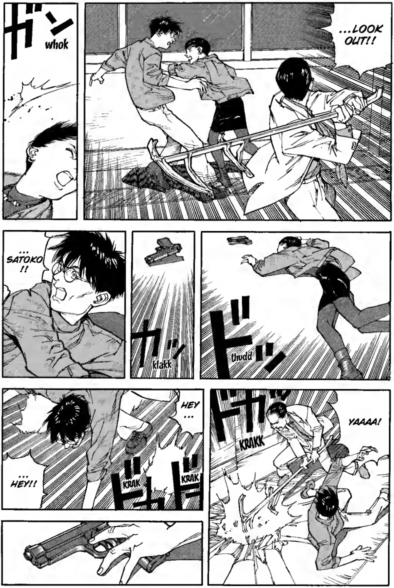

I'M THE HEROINE, AFTER ALL.
...LOOKS LIKE THE CHIEF IS GONE. LET'S GO!
RIGHT.
IT'S ALL VERY SIMPLE... SAVE THE WORLD... FINISH THE STORY...
...AND DO IT ALL BEFORE DEADLINE.
...THIS ISN'T GOING TO END WELL.
You can run, but you can't hide, asshole! —Your Editor

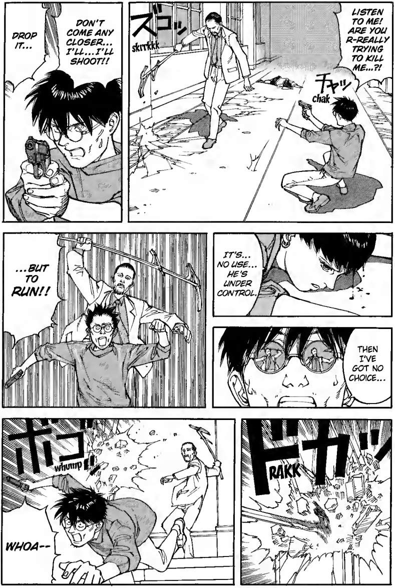

FIRST THING WE'VE GOT TO DO IS FIND LIN...
I HAVE A HUNCH.
EH?! WHAT'S HE DOING IN VOLUME ONE...?
TH- THAT'S JUST...
shhh!
....
HEY... WHAT ?!
?!
THE CITY ...!

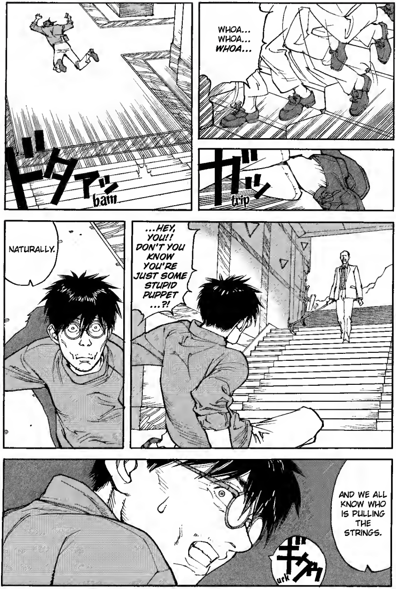
chapter eleven

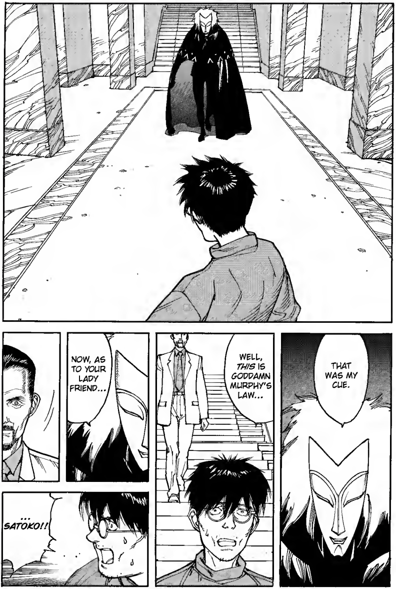

ゴオオォ
ROAAAARRRR
ザアアッ
flashhh
ズズズズ
sshhhhhh
IT'S COMING FROM THE WEST...!

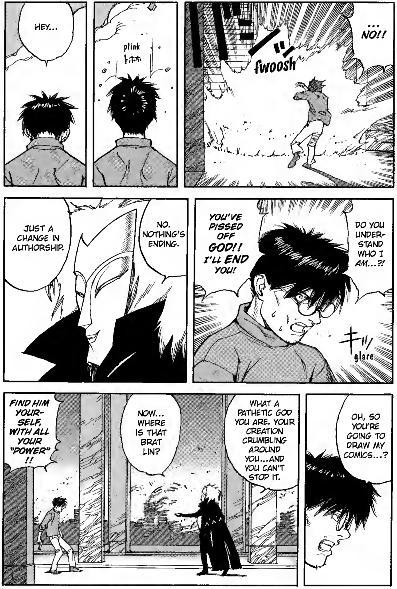

THE CITY! IT'S DISINTEGRATING...!
I WORKED HARD DRAWING THAT!! WHY IS THIS HAPPENING ...?
...HOW SHOULD I KNOW?! YOU TELL ME!!
YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU...
WHO ELSE COULD CAUSE THIS?!
UM... WELL.
I WONDER IF THIS HAS TO DO WITH ME DROPPING THE SERIES.
YOU WONDER? YOU BETTER FIGURE IT OUT FAST! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING !!
LIN... WE'VE GOT TO FIND LIN!
...OR RESONANCE IS FINISHED!!
WE WON'T DO ANYTHING IF WE CAN'T ESCAPE THIS AREA...
...BEFORE WE GET SWALLOWED UP...
!!

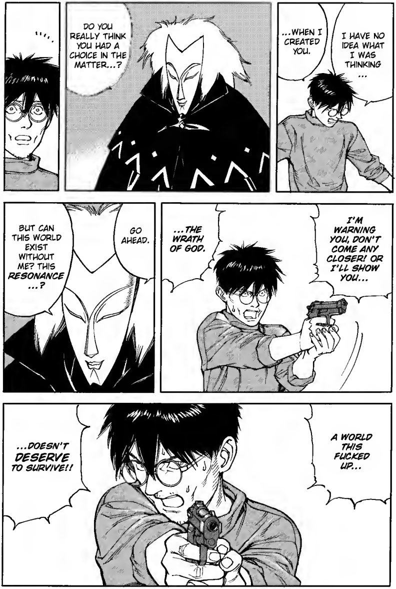

...LOOK OUT!!
ガン
whok
ドッ
thudd
カッ
klakk
... SATOKO !!
ドガッ
KRAKK
YAAAA!
HEY ...
... HEY!!
KRAK
KRAK

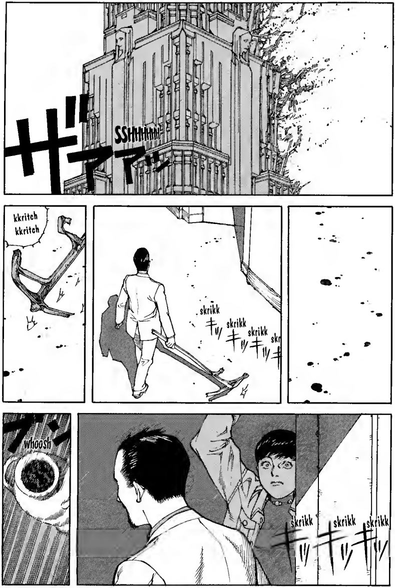

LISTEN TO ME! ARE YOU R-REALLY TRYING TO KILL ME...?!
チャッ
chak
ズゴッ
skrrkkk
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER... I'LL...I'LL SHOOT!!
DROP IT...
IT'S... NO USE... HE'S UNDER CONTROL.
THEN I'VE GOT NO CHOICE...
...BUT TO RUN!!
ドカッ
RAKK
ボゴ
whump
WHOA--

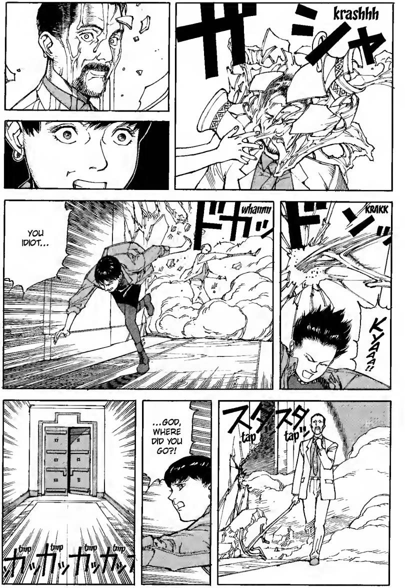

WHOA... WHOA... WHOA...
ガッ
trip
ドタアッ
bam
...HEY, YOU!! DON'T YOU KNOW YOU'RE JUST SOME STUPID PUPPET ...?!
NATURALLY.
AND WE ALL KNOW WHO IS PULLING THE STRINGS.
ギクッ
urk

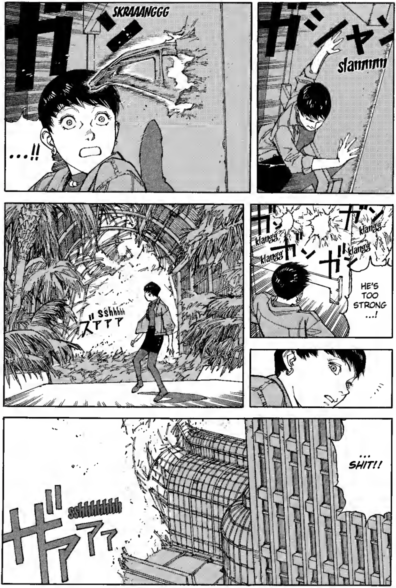

NOW, AS TO YOUR LADY FRIEND...
... SATOKO!!
WELL, *THIS* IS GODDAMN MURPHY'S LAW...
THAT WAS MY CUE.

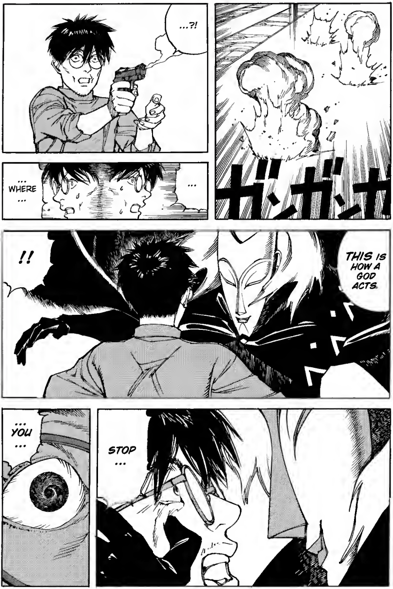
...NO!!
fwoosh
plink
トホホ
HEY...
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHO I AM...?!
YOU'VE PISSED OFF GOD!! I'LL END YOU!
キッ
glare
NO. NOTHING'S ENDING.
JUST A CHANGE IN AUTHORSHIP.
OH, SO YOU'RE GOING TO DRAW MY COMICS...?
WHAT A PATHETIC GOD YOU ARE. YOUR CREATION CRUMBLING AROUND YOU...AND YOU CAN'T STOP IT.
NOW... WHERE IS THAT BRAT LIN?
FIND HIM YOURSELF, WITH ALL YOUR "POWER" !!

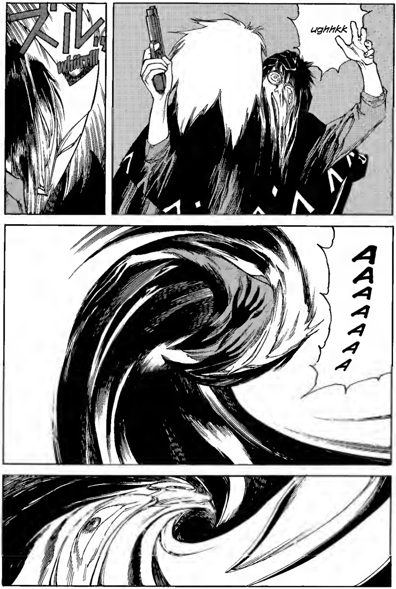

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I WAS THINKING...
...WHEN I CREATED YOU.
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU HAD A CHOICE IN THE MATTER...?
...
I'M WARNING YOU, DON'T COME ANY CLOSER! OR I'LL SHOW YOU...
...THE WRATH OF GOD.
GO AHEAD.
BUT CAN THIS WORLD EXIST WITHOUT ME? THIS RESONANCE...?
A WORLD THIS FUCKED UP...
...DOESN'T DESERVE TO SURVIVE!!

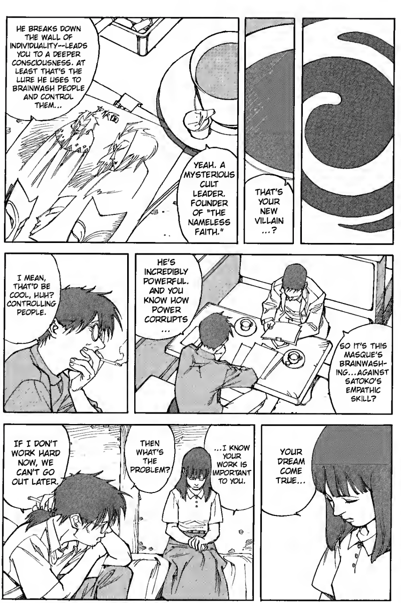

ザアアッ
SSHHHHHH
kkritch kkritch
skrikk
キリ
skrikk
キリ
skrikk
キリ
skr
キ
ブン
whoosh
skrikk
ギリ
skrikk
ギリ
skrikk
ギリ

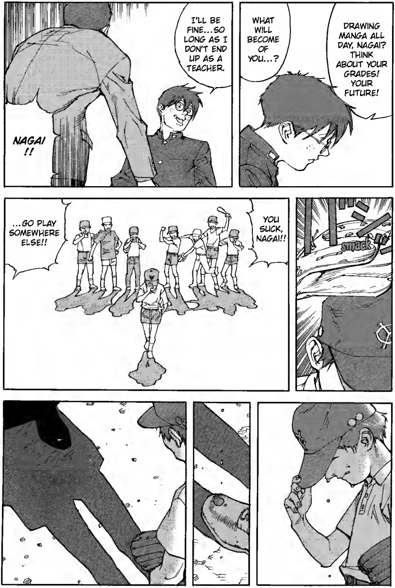

ザシャ
krashhh
YOU IDIOT...
ドガッ
whamm
ドンッ
KRAKK
KYAAA!!
ガッガッガッガッ
tmp tmp tmp tmp
...GOD, WHERE DID YOU GO?!
スタスタ
tap tap

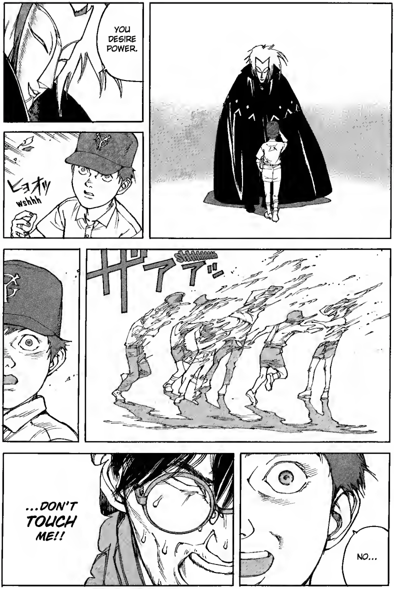

ガシャン
slammmm
ガン
SKRAAANGGG
...!!
ガンガンガンガン
klangg
klangg
klangg
klangg
HE'S TOO STRONG ...!
ズァァァ
sshhhh
... SHIT!!
ザァァァ
sshhhhhhh

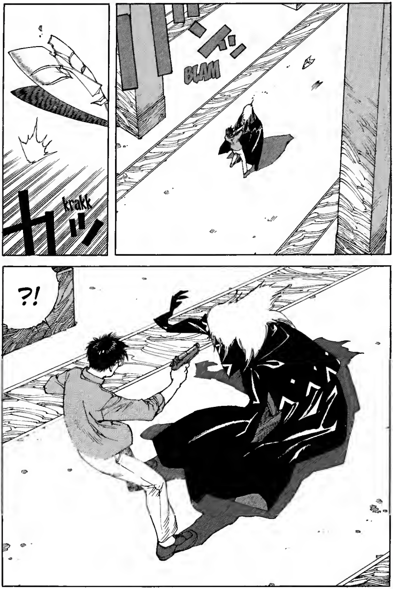

...?!
ガンガンガ
... WHERE ...
...
!!
THIS IS HOW A GOD ACTS.
... YOU ...
STOP ...

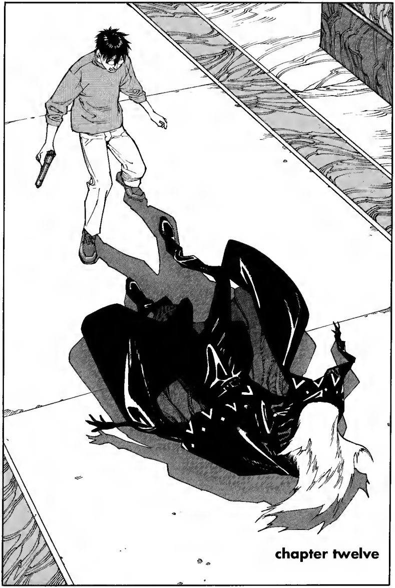

ughhkk
ズル
whiiirrl!
AAAAAAA


THAT'S YOUR NEW VILLAIN ...?
YEAH. A MYSTERIOUS CULT LEADER. FOUNDER OF "THE NAMELESS FAITH."
HE BREAKS DOWN THE WALL OF INDIVIDUALITY--LEADS YOU TO A DEEPER CONSCIOUSNESS. AT LEAST THAT'S THE LURE HE USES TO BRAINWASH PEOPLE AND CONTROL THEM...
SO IT'S THIS MASQUE'S BRAINWASHING...AGAINST SATOKO'S EMPATHIC SKILL?
HE'S INCREDIBLY POWERFUL. AND YOU KNOW HOW POWER CORRUPTS ...
I MEAN, THAT'D BE COOL, HUH? CONTROLLING PEOPLE.
YOUR DREAM COME TRUE...
...I KNOW YOUR WORK IS IMPORTANT TO YOU.
THEN WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
IF I DON'T WORK HARD NOW, WE CAN'T GO OUT LATER.

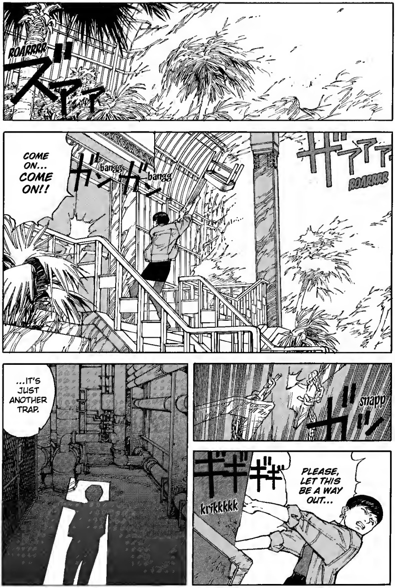

DRAWING MANGA ALL DAY, NAGAI? THINK ABOUT YOUR GRADES! YOUR FUTURE!
WHAT WILL BECOME OF YOU...?
I'LL BE FINE...SO LONG AS I DON'T END UP AS A TEACHER.
NAGAI !!
smack
YOU SUCK, NAGAI!!
...GO PLAY SOMEWHERE ELSE!!

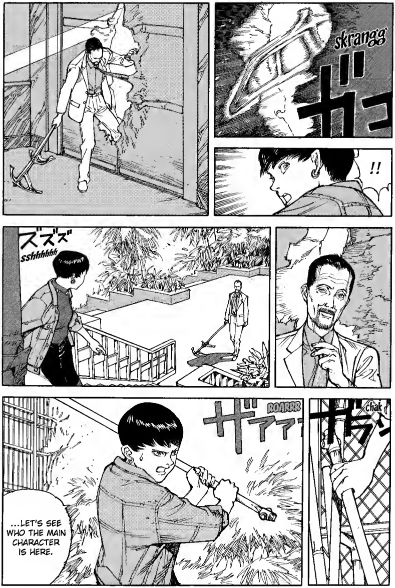

YOU DESIRE POWER.
ヒョオッ
wshhh
ザアア゙ッ
shhhhhhh
NO...
...DON'T TOUCH ME!!

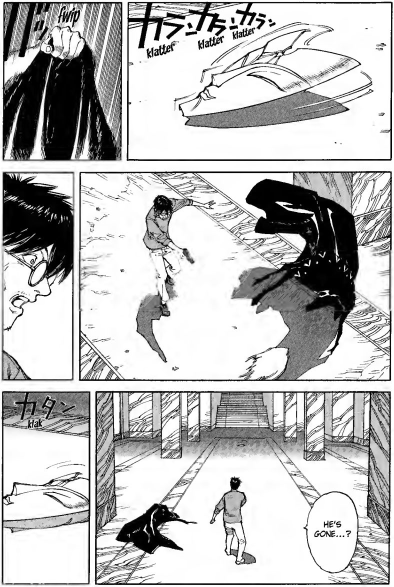

BLAM
krakk
?!

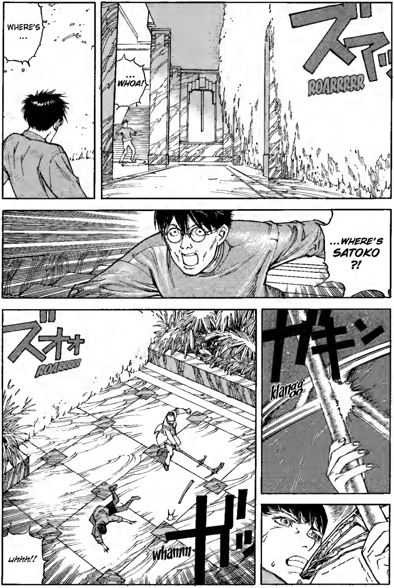


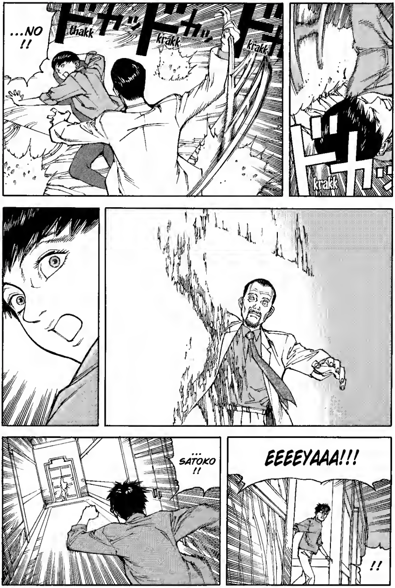
chapter twelve

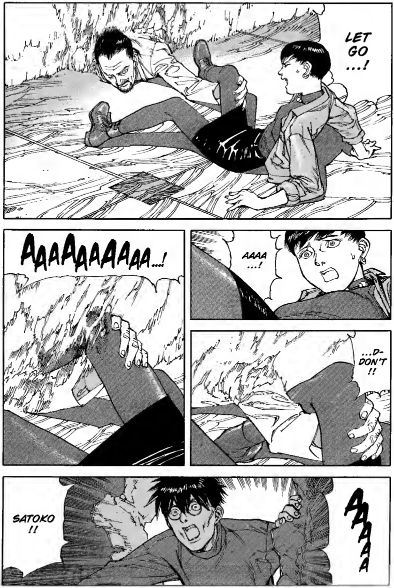

ROARRRR
ズアァ
ザァァァ
ROARRRR
COME ON... COME ON!!
bangg
ガン
bangg
ガン
snapp
ガッン
krikkkkk
ギギギ
PLEASE, LET THIS BE A WAY OUT...
...IT'S JUST ANOTHER TRAP.

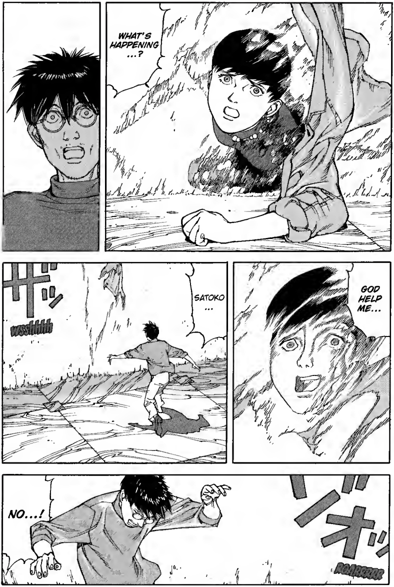

skrangg
ガコ
!!
ズズズ
sshhhhhh
chak
ガラン
ROARRR
ザアァァ
...LET'S SEE WHO THE MAIN CHARACTER IS HERE.

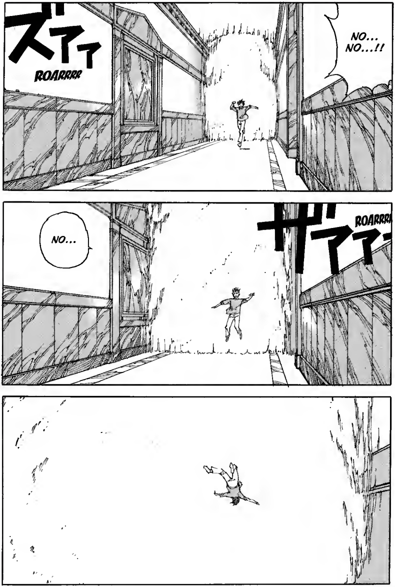

カランカランカラン
klatter klatter klatter
ド
fwip
HE'S GONE...?
カタン
klak

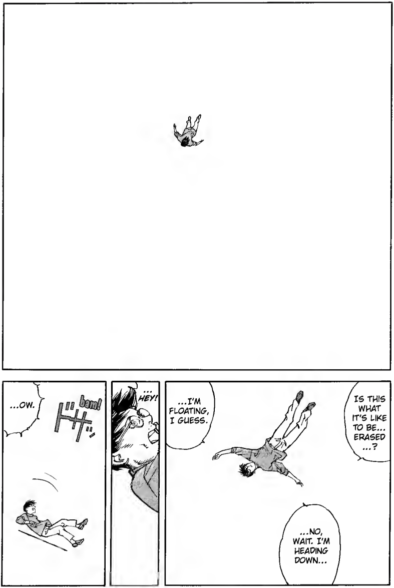

ズァッ
ROARRRRR
... WHOA!
WHERE'S ...
...WHERE'S SATOKO ?!
ガキン
klangg
ズオォ
ROARRRR
ガッ
whammm
uhhh!!

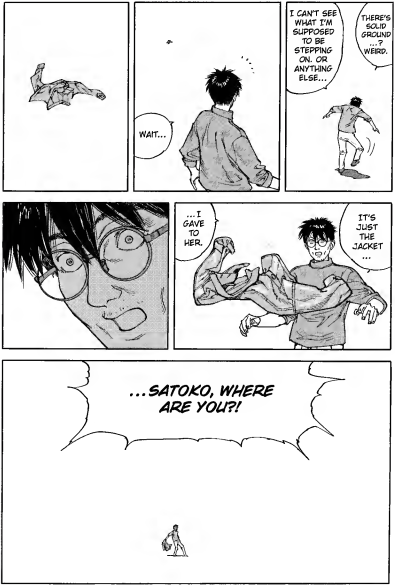

krakk
krakk
krakk
thakk
...NO !!
EEEEYAAA!!!
!!
... SATOKO !!

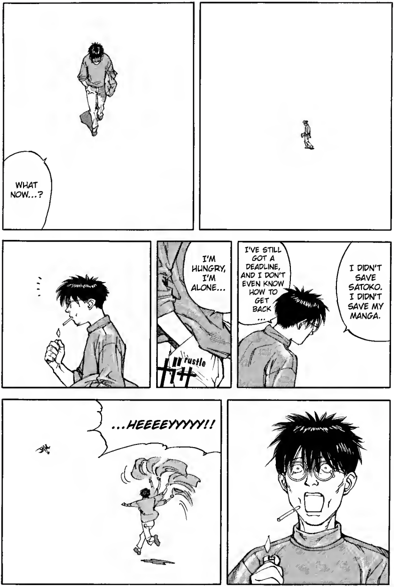

LET GO ...!
AAAAAAAAA...!
AAAA ...!
...D-DON'T !!
SATOKO !!
AAAAA

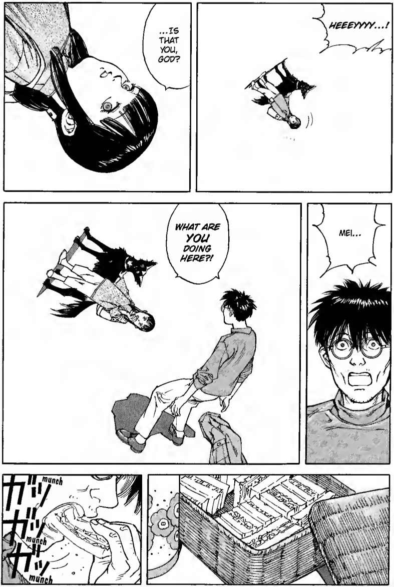

WHAT'S HAPPENING ...?
GOD HELP ME...
SATOKO ...
ザッ
wsshhhh
ゾオッ
ROARRRR
NO...!

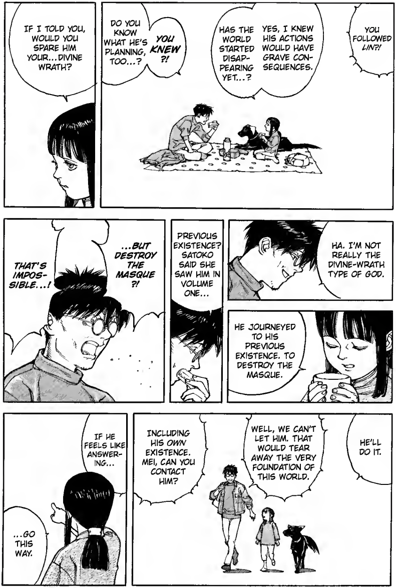

NO...
NO...!!
ズアァ
ROARRRR
ザアァ
ROARRR
NO...

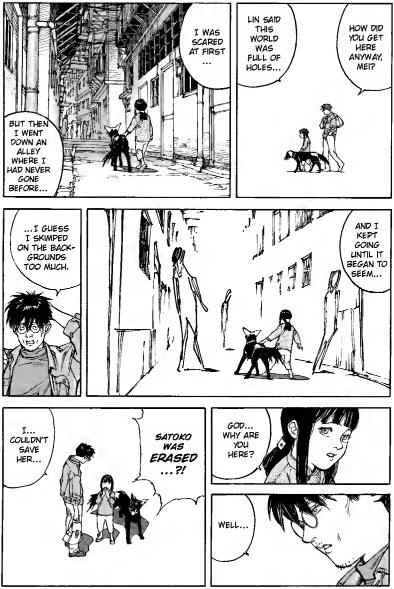

...I'M FLOATING, I GUESS.
IS THIS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE... ERASED ...?
...NO, WAIT. I'M HEADING DOWN...
... HEY!
bam!
...OW.

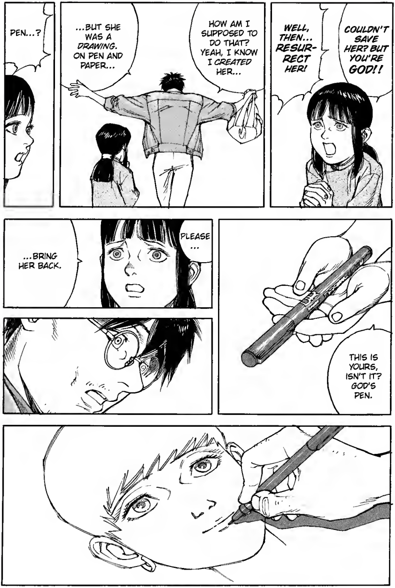

THERE'S SOLID GROUND ...? WEIRD.
I CAN'T SEE WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO BE STEPPING ON. OR ANYTHING ELSE...
WAIT...
IT'S JUST THE JACKET ...
...I GAVE TO HER.
...SATOKO, WHERE ARE YOU?!

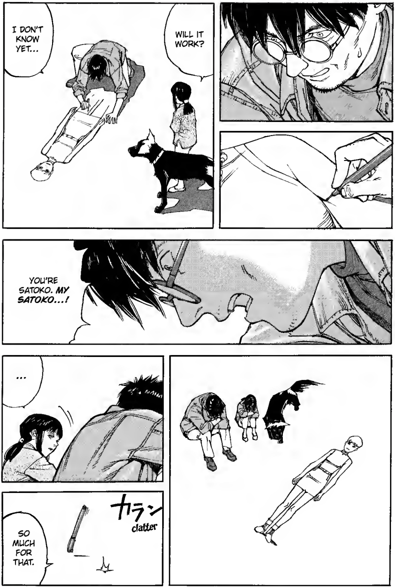

WHAT NOW...?
I DIDN'T SAVE SATOKO. I DIDN'T SAVE MY MANGA.
I'VE STILL GOT A DEADLINE, AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO GET BACK ...
I'M HUNGRY, I'M ALONE...
rustle
...
...HEEEEYYYYY!!

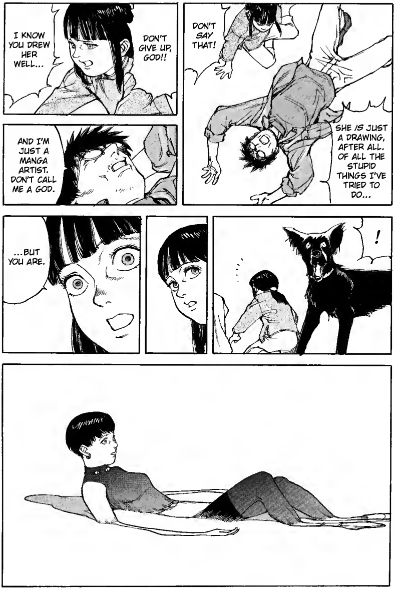

HEEEYYYY...!
...IS THAT YOU, GOD?
MEI...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
ガツ munch
ガツ munch
ガツ munch


YOU FOLLOWED *LIN?!*
YES, I KNEW HIS ACTIONS WOULD HAVE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES.
HAS THE WORLD STARTED DISAPPEARING YET...?
YOU KNEW ?!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE'S PLANNING, TOO...?
IF I TOLD YOU, WOULD YOU SPARE HIM YOUR...DIVINE WRATH?
HA. I'M NOT REALLY THE DIVINE-WRATH TYPE OF GOD.
HE JOURNEYED TO HIS PREVIOUS EXISTENCE. TO DESTROY THE MASQUE.
PREVIOUS EXISTENCE? SATOKO SAID SHE SAW HIM IN VOLUME ONE...
...BUT DESTROY THE MASQUE ?!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...!
HE'LL DO IT.
WELL, WE CAN'T LET HIM. THAT WOULD TEAR AWAY THE VERY FOUNDATION OF THIS WORLD.
INCLUDING HIS *OWN* EXISTENCE. MEI, CAN YOU CONTACT HIM?
IF HE FEELS LIKE ANSWERING...
...GO THIS WAY.

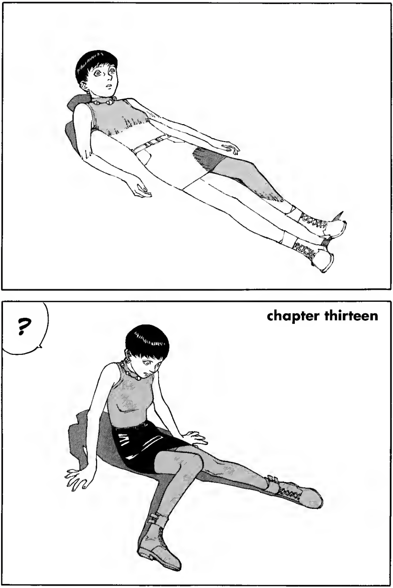

HOW DID YOU GET HERE ANYWAY, MEI?
LIN SAID THIS WORLD WAS FULL OF HOLES...
I WAS SCARED AT FIRST ...
BUT THEN I WENT DOWN AN ALLEY WHERE I HAD NEVER GONE BEFORE...
AND I KEPT GOING UNTIL IT BEGAN TO SEEM...
...I GUESS I SKIMPED ON THE BACK-GROUNDS TOO MUCH.
GOD... WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WELL...
I... COULDN'T SAVE HER...
SATOKO WAS ERASED ...?!

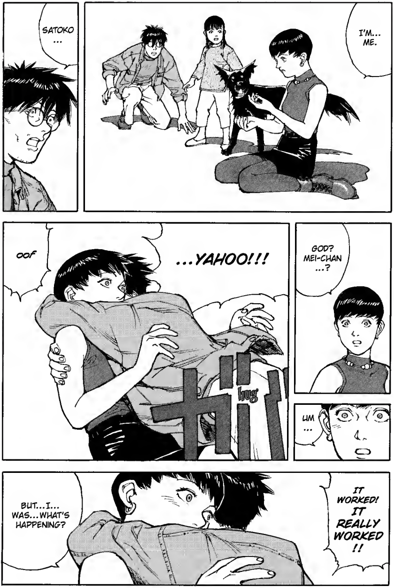

COULDN'T SAVE HER? BUT YOU'RE GOD!!
WELL, THEN... RESURRECT HER!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DO THAT? YEAH, I KNOW I CREATED HER...
...BUT SHE WAS A DRAWING. ON PEN AND PAPER...
PEN...?
PLEASE...
...BRING HER BACK.
THIS IS YOURS, ISN'T IT? GOD'S PEN.

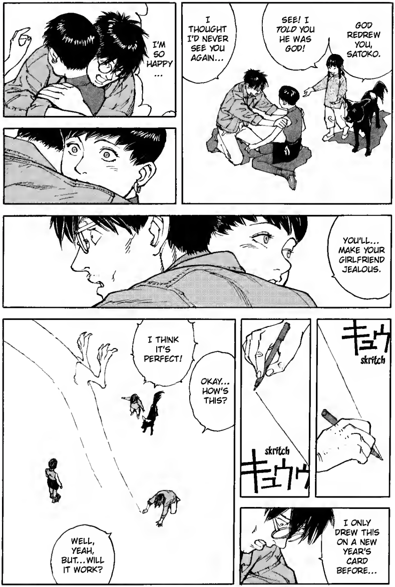

WILL IT WORK?
I DON'T KNOW YET...
YOU'RE SATOKO. *MY SATOKO...!*
...
カラン
clatter
SO MUCH FOR THAT.

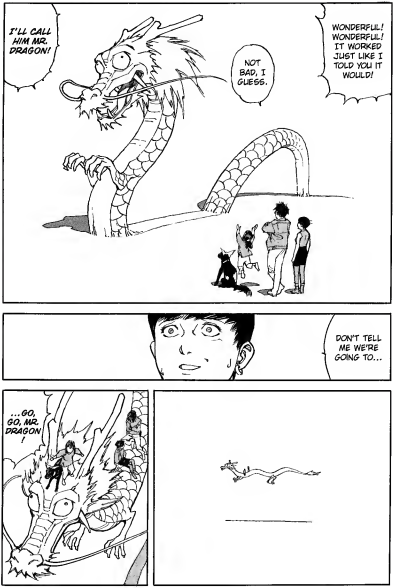

SHE *IS* JUST A DRAWING, AFTER ALL. OF ALL THE STUPID THINGS I'VE TRIED TO DO...
DON'T *SAY* THAT!
DON'T GIVE UP, GOD!!
I KNOW YOU DREW HER WELL...
AND I'M JUST A MANGA ARTIST. DON'T CALL ME A GOD.
!
...BUT YOU ARE.

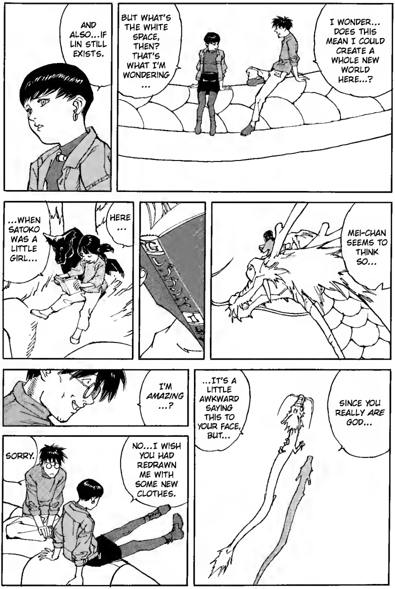
chapter thirteen

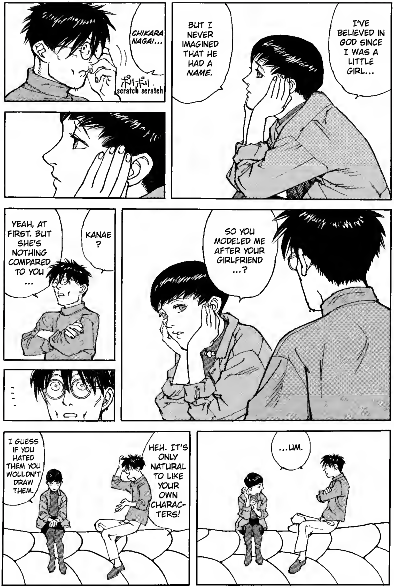


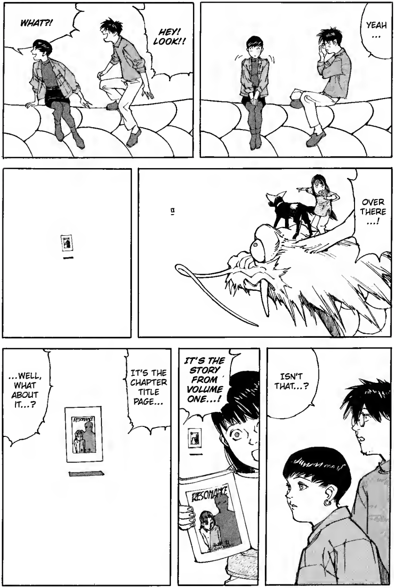

I'M... ME.
SATOKO ...
GOD? MEI-CHAN ...?
UM ...
...YAHOO!!!
oof
hug
IT WORKED! IT REALLY WORKED !!
BUT...I... WAS...WHAT'S HAPPENING?

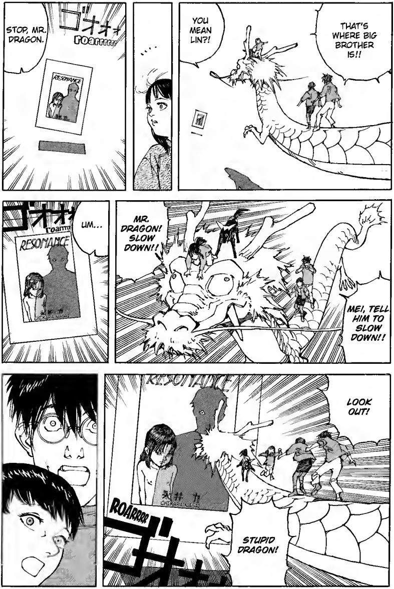

I'M SO HAPPY ...
I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN...
SEE! I *TOLD* YOU HE WAS GOD!
GOD REDREW YOU, SATOKO.
YOU'LL... MAKE YOUR GIRLFRIEND JEALOUS.
OKAY... HOW'S THIS?
I THINK IT'S PERFECT!
WELL, YEAH, BUT...WILL IT WORK?
skritch
キュウ
キュウ
skritch
I ONLY DREW THIS ON A NEW YEAR'S CARD BEFORE...


I'LL CALL HIM MR. DRAGON!
NOT BAD, I GUESS.
WONDERFUL! WONDERFUL! IT WORKED JUST LIKE I TOLD YOU IT WOULD!
DON'T TELL ME WE'RE GOING TO...
...GO, GO, MR. DRAGON!

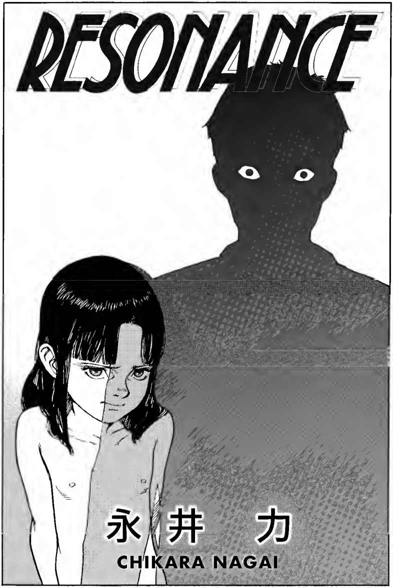

I WONDER... DOES THIS MEAN I COULD CREATE A WHOLE NEW WORLD HERE...?
BUT WHAT'S THE WHITE SPACE, THEN? THAT'S WHAT I'M WONDERING...
AND ALSO...IF LIN STILL EXISTS.
MEI-CHAN SEEMS TO THINK SO...
HERE...
...WHEN SATOKO WAS A LITTLE GIRL...
SINCE YOU REALLY *ARE* GOD...
...IT'S A LITTLE AWKWARD SAYING THIS TO YOUR FACE, BUT...
I'M *AMAZING*...?
NO...I WISH YOU HAD REDRAWN ME WITH SOME NEW CLOTHES.
SORRY.


I'VE BELIEVED IN GOD SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL...
BUT I NEVER IMAGINED THAT HE HAD A *NAME.*
CHIKARA NAGAI...
ポリポリ
scratch scratch
SO YOU MODELED ME AFTER YOUR GIRLFRIEND ...?
KANAE ?
YEAH, AT FIRST. BUT SHE'S NOTHING COMPARED TO YOU ...
...
...UM.
HEH. IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO LIKE YOUR OWN CHARACTERS!
I GUESS IF YOU HATED THEM YOU WOULDN'T DRAW THEM.


YEAH ...
HEY! LOOK!!
WHAT?!
OVER THERE ...!
ISN'T THAT...?
IT'S THE STORY FROM VOLUME ONE...!
RESONANCE
IT'S THE CHAPTER TITLE PAGE...
...WELL, WHAT ABOUT IT...?
RESONANCE

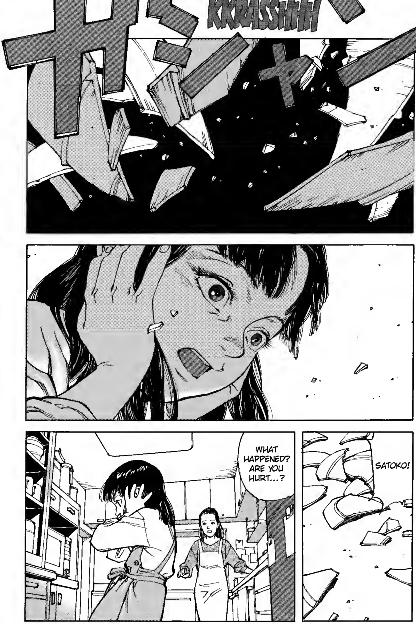

STOP, MR. DRAGON.
ゴオオォ
roarrrrr
RESONANCE
...
YOU MEAN LIN?!
THAT'S WHERE BIG BROTHER IS!!
ゴオオ
roarrr
RESONANCE
CHIKARA NAGAI
UM...
MR. DRAGON! SLOW DOWN!!
MEI, TELL HIM TO SLOW DOWN!!
RESONANCE
LOOK OUT!
CHIKARA NAGAI
ROARRRR
ゴオォ…
STUPID DRAGON!

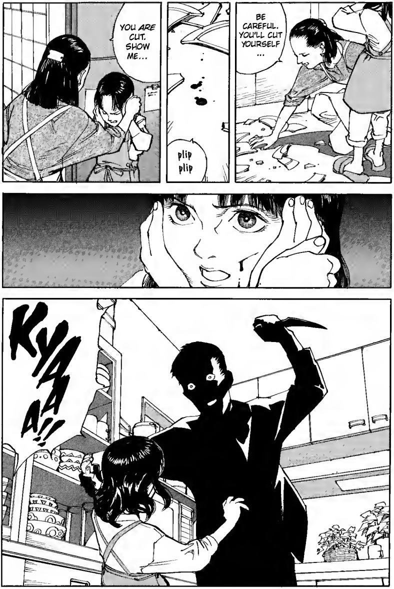
RESONANCE

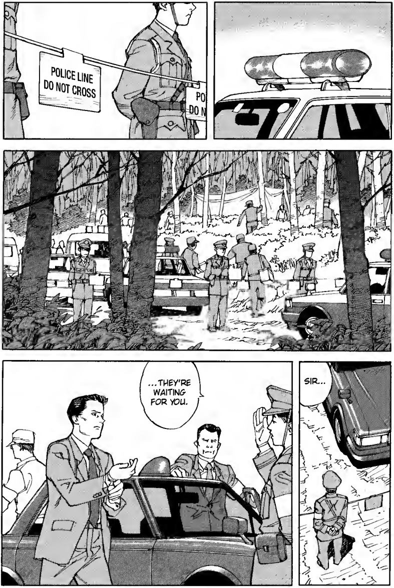


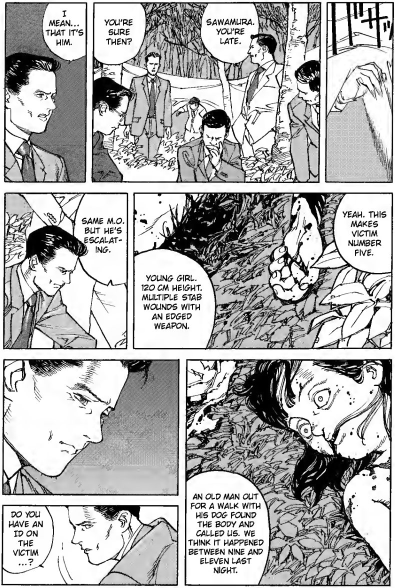
永井　力

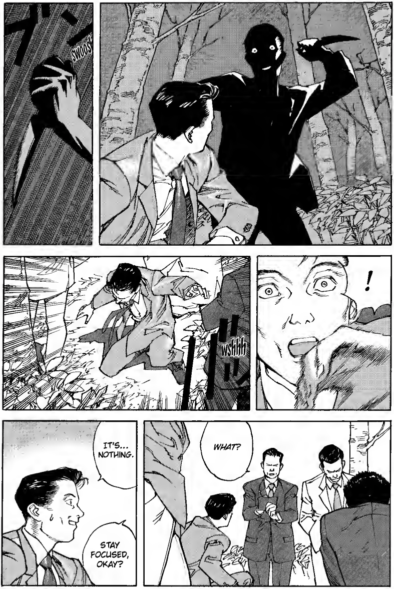
CHIKARA NAGAI

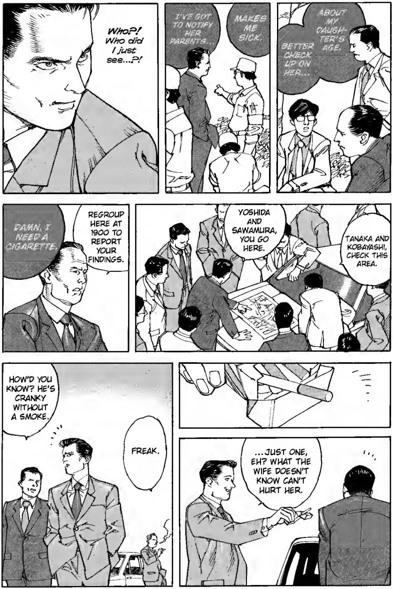

KKRASSHHH
SATOKO!
WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU HURT...?

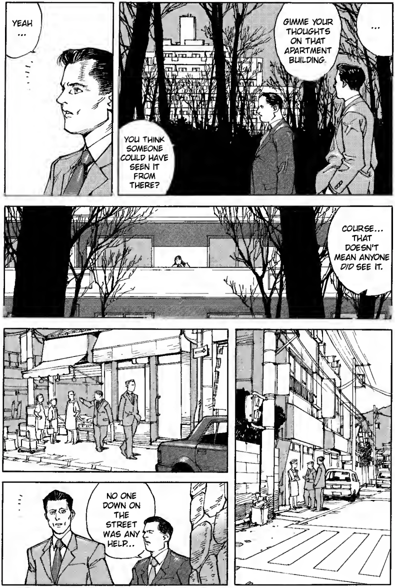

YOU *ARE* CUT. SHOW ME...
plip plip
BE CAREFUL. YOU'LL CUT YOURSELF ...
KYAAA!!

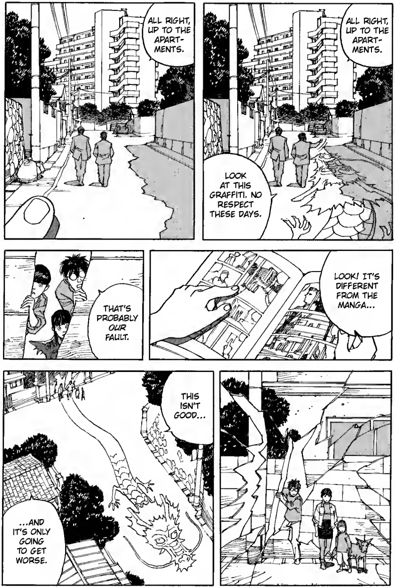

POLICE LINE
DO NOT CROSS
PO
DO N
...THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU.
SIR...

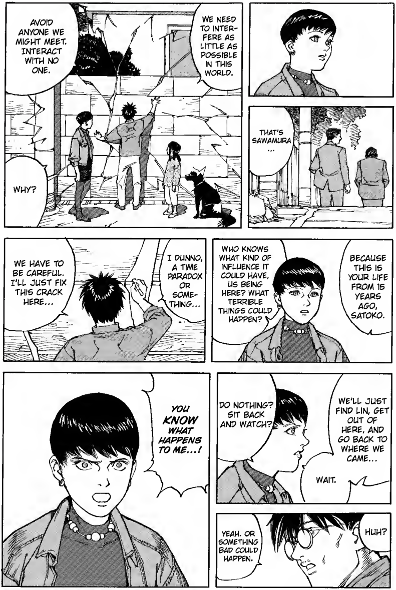

ザッ
SAWAMURA. YOU'RE LATE.
YOU'RE SURE THEN?
I MEAN... THAT IT'S HIM.
YEAH. THIS MAKES VICTIM NUMBER FIVE.
YOUNG GIRL. 120 CM HEIGHT. MULTIPLE STAB WOUNDS WITH AN EDGED WEAPON.
SAME M.O. BUT HE'S ESCALATING.
AN OLD MAN OUT FOR A WALK WITH HIS DOG FOUND THE BODY AND CALLED US. WE THINK IT HAPPENED BETWEEN NINE AND ELEVEN LAST NIGHT.
DO YOU HAVE AN ID ON THE VICTIM ...?


ブン
SWOOS
!
wshhh
WHAT?
IT'S... NOTHING.
STAY FOCUSED, OKAY?

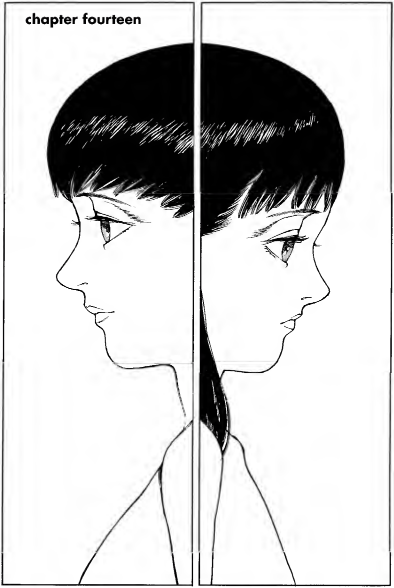

Who?! Who did I just see...?!
I'VE GOT TO NOTIFY HER PARENTS...
MAKES ME SICK.
ABOUT MY DAUGHTER'S AGE.
BETTER CHECK UP ON HER...
DAMN, I NEED A CIGARETTE.
REGROUP HERE AT 1900 TO REPORT YOUR FINDINGS.
YOSHIDA AND SAWAMURA, YOU GO HERE.
TANAKA AND KOBAYASHI, CHECK THIS AREA.
HOW'D YOU KNOW? HE'S CRANKY WITHOUT A SMOKE.
FREAK.
...JUST ONE, EH? WHAT THE WIFE DOESN'T KNOW CAN'T HURT HER.

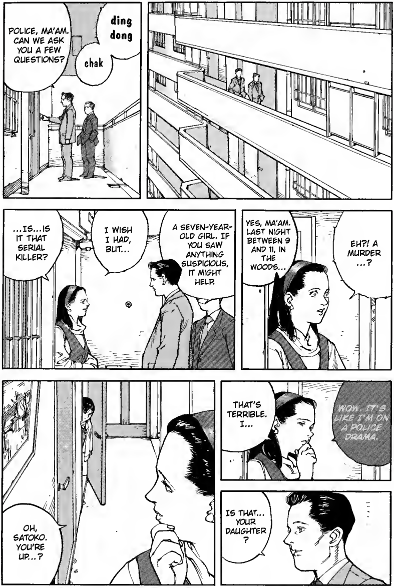

GIMME YOUR THOUGHTS ON THAT APARTMENT BUILDING.
...
YOU THINK SOMEONE COULD HAVE SEEN IT FROM THERE?
YEAH ...
COURSE... THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANYONE *DID* SEE IT.
NO ONE DOWN ON THE STREET WAS ANY HELP...

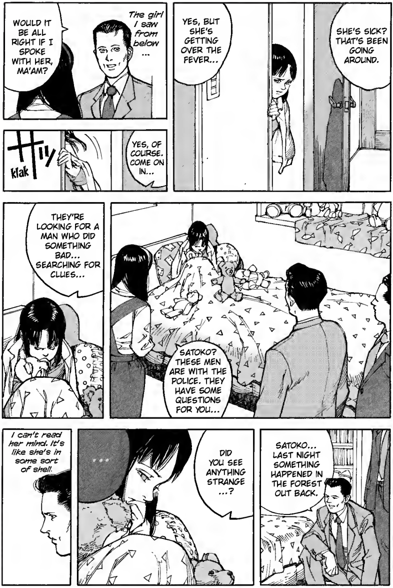

ALL RIGHT, UP TO THE APARTMENTS.
ALL RIGHT, UP TO THE APARTMENTS.
LOOK AT THIS GRAFFITI. NO RESPECT THESE DAYS.
THAT'S PROBABLY *OUR* FAULT.
LOOK! IT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE MANGA...
THIS ISN'T GOOD...
...AND IT'S ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE.

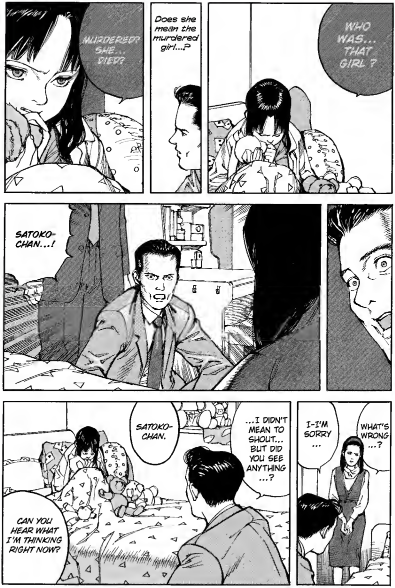

AVOID ANYONE WE MIGHT MEET. INTERACT WITH NO ONE.
WE NEED TO INTERFERE AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE IN THIS WORLD.
WHY?
THAT'S SAWAMURA ...
WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL. I'LL JUST FIX THIS CRACK HERE...
I DUNNO, A TIME PARADOX OR SOMETHING...
WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF INFLUENCE IT COULD HAVE, US BEING HERE? WHAT TERRIBLE THINGS COULD HAPPEN?
BECAUSE THIS IS YOUR LIFE FROM 15 YEARS AGO, SATOKO.
YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO ME...!
DO NOTHING? SIT BACK AND WATCH?
WE'LL JUST FIND LIN, GET OUT OF HERE, AND GO BACK TO WHERE WE CAME...
WAIT.
YEAH. OR SOMETHING BAD COULD HAPPEN.
HUH?

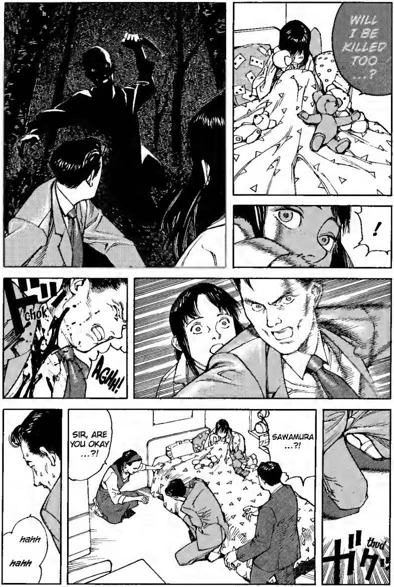
chapter fourteen

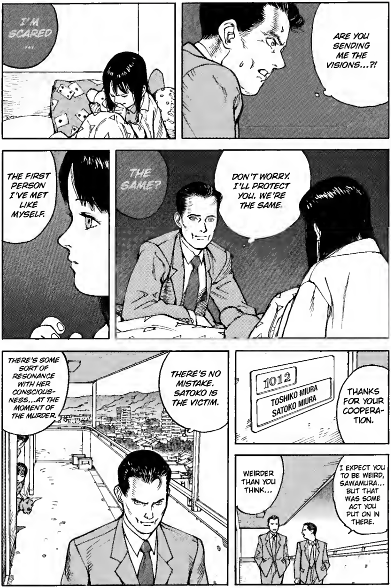


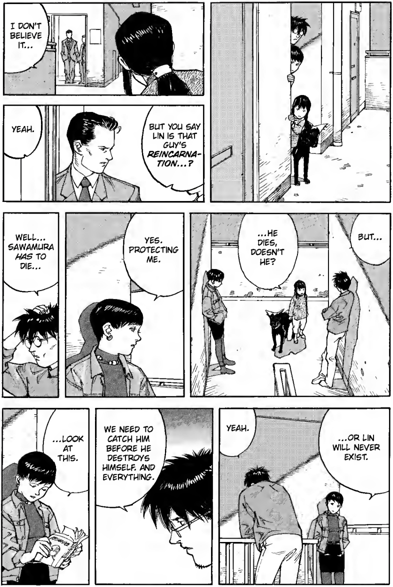

ding dong
chak
POLICE, MA'AM. CAN WE ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS?
EH?! A MURDER ...?
YES, MA'AM. LAST NIGHT BETWEEN 9 AND 11, IN THE WOODS...
A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL. IF YOU SAW ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS, IT MIGHT HELP.
I WISH I HAD, BUT...
...IS...IS IT THAT SERIAL KILLER?
WOW. IT'S LIKE I'M ON A POLICE DRAMA.
THAT'S TERRIBLE. I...
IS THAT... YOUR DAUGHTER?
OH, SATOKO. YOU'RE UP...?

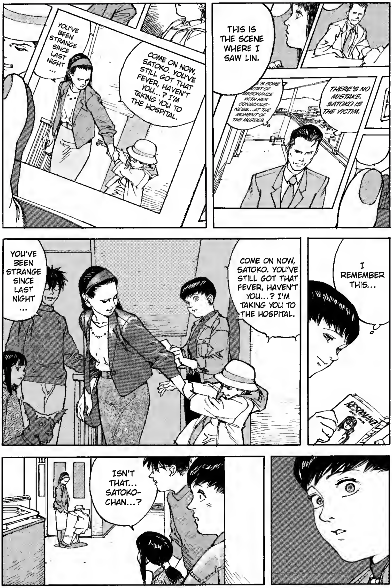

SHE'S SICK? THAT'S BEEN GOING AROUND.
YES, BUT SHE'S GETTING OVER THE FEVER...
The girl I saw from below ...
WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF I SPOKE WITH HER, MA'AM?
YES, OF COURSE. COME ON IN...
klak
SATOKO? THESE MEN ARE WITH THE POLICE. THEY HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU...
THEY'RE LOOKING FOR A MAN WHO DID SOMETHING BAD... SEARCHING FOR CLUES...
SATOKO... LAST NIGHT SOMETHING HAPPENED IN THE FOREST OUT BACK.
DID YOU SEE ANYTHING STRANGE ...?
...
I can't read her mind. It's like she's in some sort of shell.

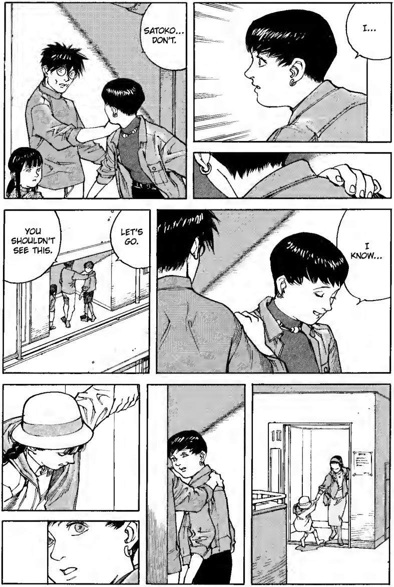

WHO WAS... THAT GIRL ?
Does she mean the murdered girl...?
MURDERED? SHE... DIED?
SATOKO-CHAN...!
WHAT'S WRONG ...?
I-I'M SORRY ...
...I DIDN'T MEAN TO SHOUT... BUT DID YOU SEE ANYTHING ...?
SATOKO-CHAN.
CAN YOU HEAR WHAT I'M THINKING RIGHT NOW?

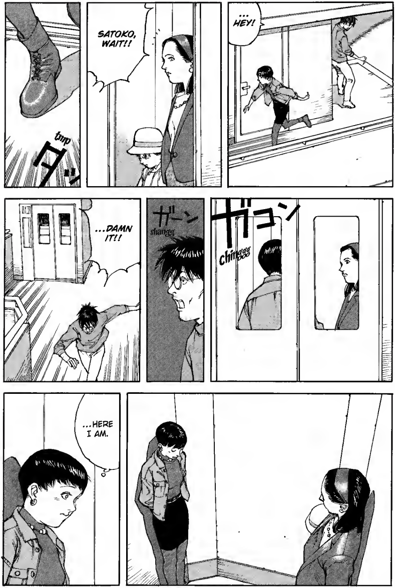

WILL I BE KILLED TOO ...?
!
chok
AGHH!
thud
ガクッ
SAWAMURA ...?!
SIR, ARE YOU OKAY ...?!
hahh
hahh

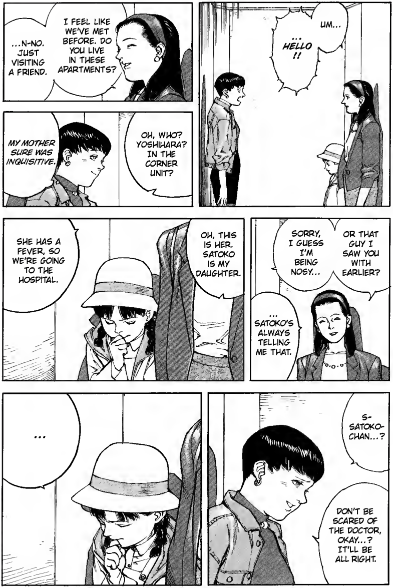

ARE YOU SENDING ME THE VISIONS...?!
I'M SCARED...
DON'T WORRY. I'LL PROTECT YOU. WE'RE THE SAME.
THE SAME?
THE FIRST PERSON I'VE MET LIKE MYSELF.
THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION.
1012
TOSHIKO MIURA
SATOKO MIURA
I EXPECT YOU TO BE WEIRD, SAWAMURA... BUT THAT WAS SOME ACT YOU PUT ON IN THERE.
WEIRDER THAN YOU THINK...
THERE'S NO MISTAKE. SATOKO IS THE VICTIM.
THERE'S SOME SORT OF RESONANCE WITH HER CONSCIOUSNESS...AT THE MOMENT OF THE MURDER.

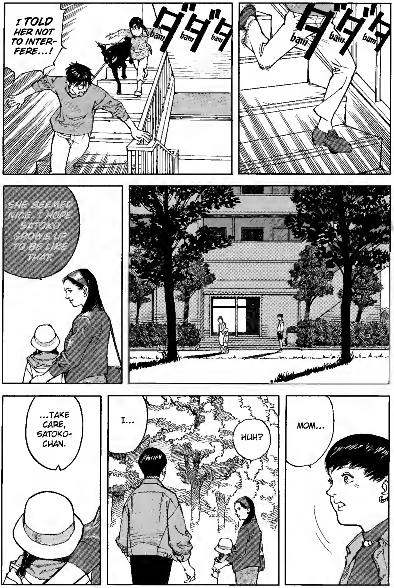

I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
YEAH.
BUT YOU SAY LIN IS THAT GUY'S *REINCARNATION...?*
WELL... SAWAMURA *HAS* TO DIE...
YES. PROTECTING ME.
...HE DIES, DOESN'T HE?
BUT...
...LOOK AT THIS.
WE NEED TO CATCH HIM BEFORE HE DESTROYS HIMSELF. AND EVERYTHING.
YEAH.
...OR LIN WILL NEVER EXIST.

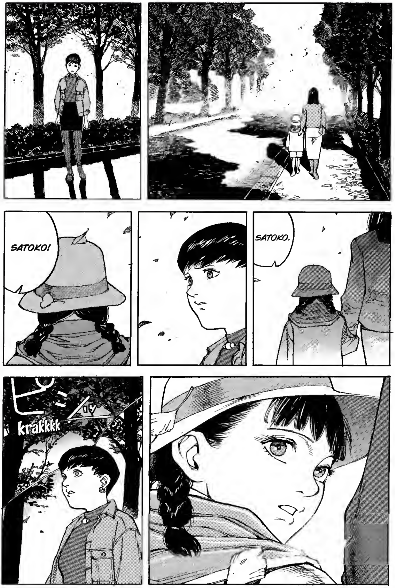

YOU'VE BEEN STRANGE SINCE LAST NIGHT ...
COME ON NOW, SATOKO. YOU'VE STILL GOT THAT FEVER, HAVEN'T YOU...? I'M TAKING YOU TO THE HOSPITAL.
THIS IS THE SCENE WHERE I SAW LIN.
E'S SOME SORT OF RESONANCE WITH HER CONSCIOUSNESS...AT THE MOMENT OF THE MURDER
THERE'S NO MISTAKE. SATOKO IS THE VICTIM.
YOU'VE BEEN STRANGE SINCE LAST NIGHT ...
COME ON NOW, SATOKO. YOU'VE STILL GOT THAT FEVER, HAVEN'T YOU...? I'M TAKING YOU TO THE HOSPITAL.
I REMEMBER THIS...
RESONANCE
ISN'T THAT... SATOKO-CHAN...?


SATOKO... DON'T.
I...
YOU SHOULDN'T SEE THIS.
LET'S GO.
I KNOW...
10


ダッ
tmp
SATOKO, WAIT!!
... HEY!
...DAMN IT!!
ガーン
shangg
ガコン
chinggg
...HERE I AM.

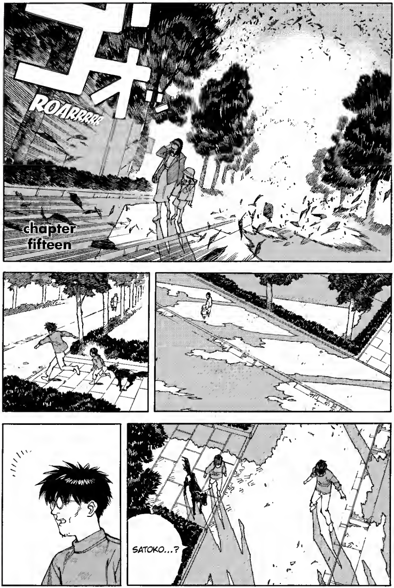

UM...
...HELLO!!
I FEEL LIKE WE'VE MET BEFORE. DO YOU LIVE IN THESE APARTMENTS?
...N-NO. JUST VISITING A FRIEND.
OH, WHO? YOSHIHARA? IN THE CORNER UNIT?
MY MOTHER SURE WAS INQUISITIVE.
OR THAT GUY I SAW YOU WITH EARLIER?
SORRY, I GUESS I'M BEING NOSY...
...SATOKO'S ALWAYS TELLING ME THAT.
OH, THIS IS HER. SATOKO IS MY DAUGHTER.
SHE HAS A FEVER, SO WE'RE GOING TO THE HOSPITAL.
S-SATOKO-CHAN...?
DON'T BE SCARED OF THE DOCTOR, OKAY...? IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
...

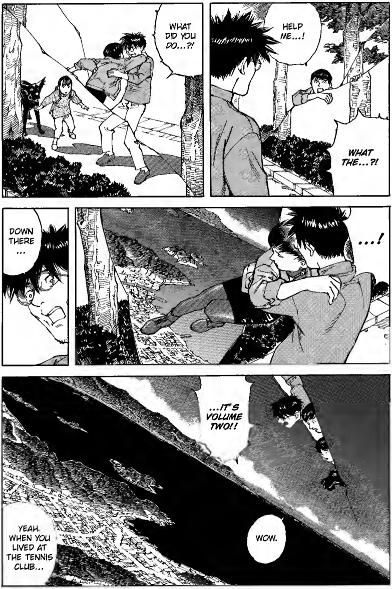

ダダダ
bam bam bam
I TOLD HER NOT TO INTERFERE...!
ダダダ
bam bam bam
SHE SEEMED NICE. I HOPE SATOKO GROWS UP TO BE LIKE THAT.
MOM...
I...
HUH?
...TAKE CARE, SATOKO-CHAN.

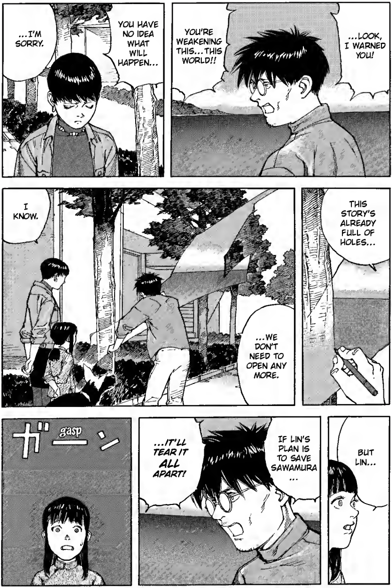

SATOKO.
SATOKO!
ピシッ
krakkkk

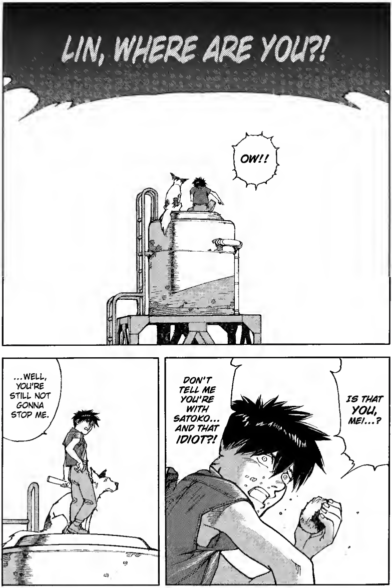
DESONANCE
opus

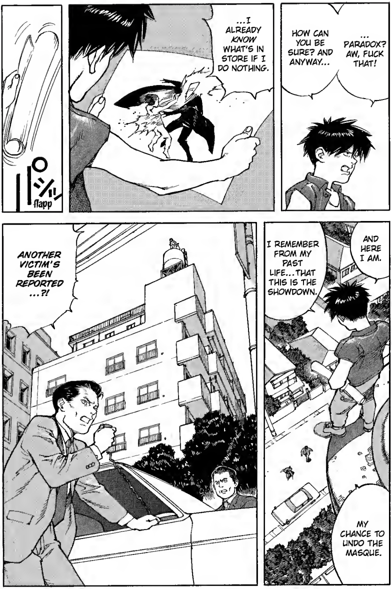
chapter fifteen

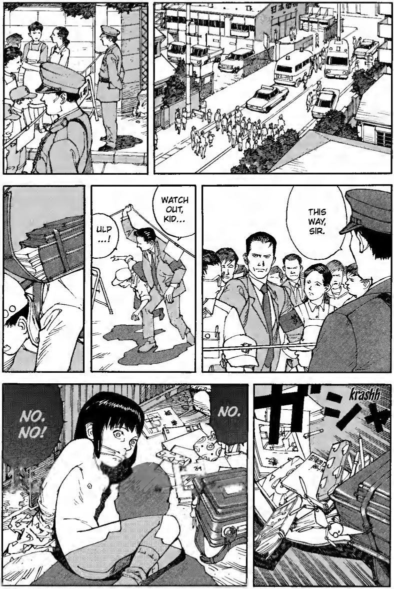

ゴオ
ROARRRRR
SATOKO...?

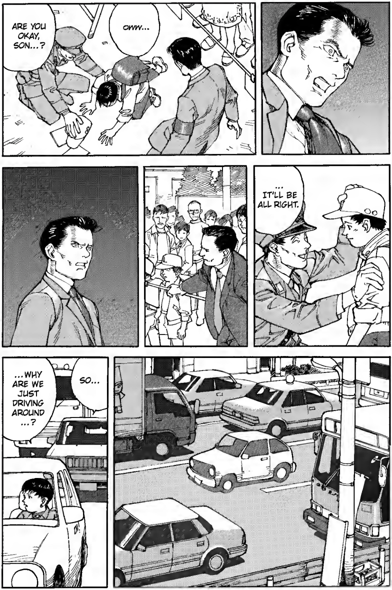

HELP ME...!
WHAT THE...?!
WHAT DID YOU DO...?!
...!
DOWN THERE ...
...IT'S VOLUME TWO!!
WOW.
YEAH. WHEN YOU LIVED AT THE TENNIS CLUB...

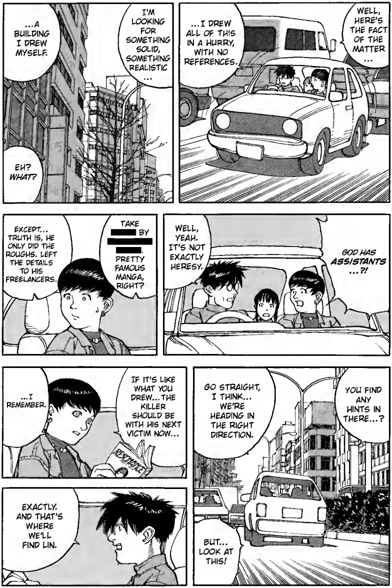

...LOOK, I WARNED YOU!
YOU'RE WEAKENING THIS...THIS WORLD!!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WILL HAPPEN...
...I'M SORRY.
THIS STORY'S ALREADY FULL OF HOLES...
...WE DON'T NEED TO OPEN ANY MORE.
I KNOW.
BUT LIN...
IF LIN'S PLAN IS TO SAVE SAWAMURA...
...IT'LL TEAR IT ALL APART!
ガーン
gasp

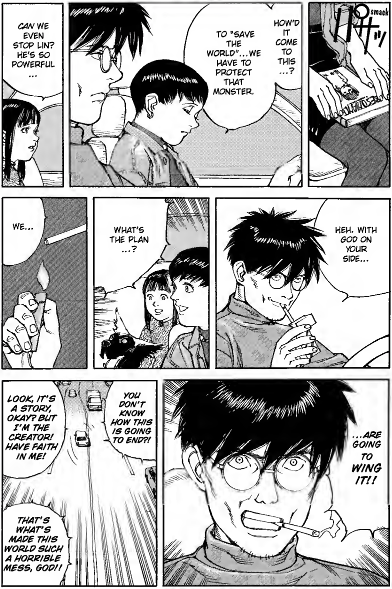

LIN, WHERE ARE YOU?!
OW!!
IS THAT YOU, MEI...?
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE WITH SATOKO... AND THAT IDIOT?!
...WELL, YOU'RE STILL NOT GONNA STOP ME.

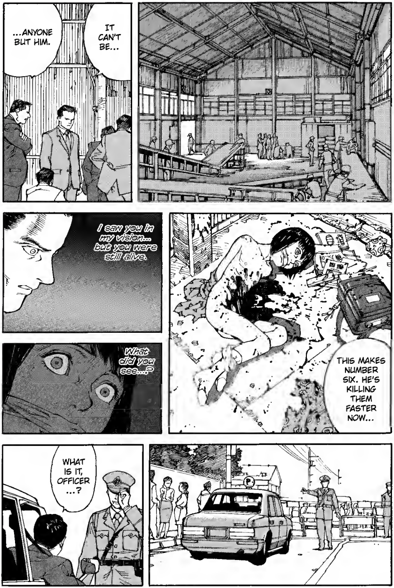

HOW CAN YOU BE SURE? AND ANYWAY...
...PARADOX? AW, FUCK THAT!
...I ALREADY *KNOW* WHAT'S IN STORE IF I DO NOTHING.
パシッ
flapp
I REMEMBER FROM MY PAST LIFE...THAT THIS IS THE SHOWDOWN.
AND HERE I AM.
MY CHANCE TO UNDO THE MASQUE.
ANOTHER VICTIM'S BEEN REPORTED ...?!

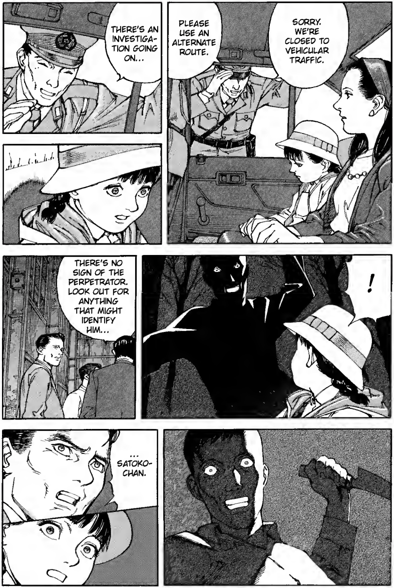

WATCH OUT, KID...
ULP ...!
THIS WAY, SIR.
NO. NO!
NO.
ガシャ
krashh

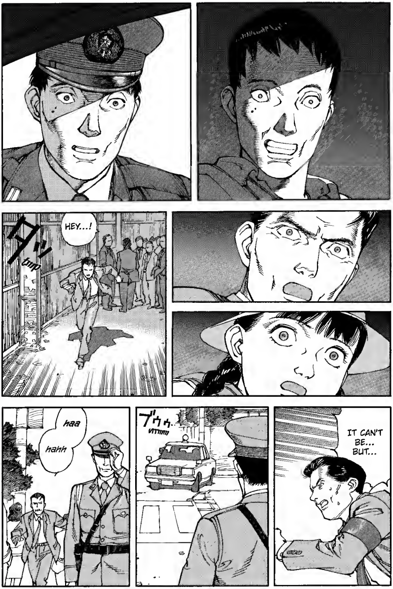

OWW...
ARE YOU OKAY, SON...?
... IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
SO...
...WHY ARE WE JUST DRIVING AROUND ...?

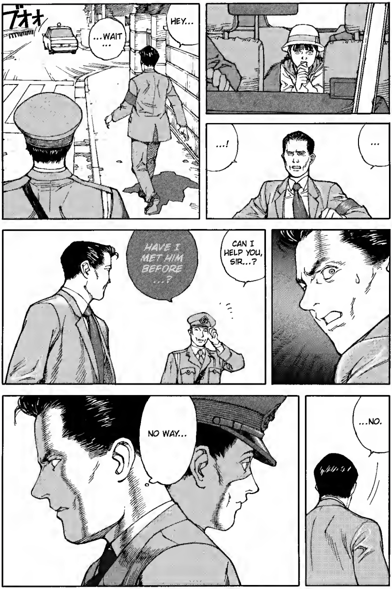

WELL, HERE'S THE FACT OF THE MATTER ...
...I DREW ALL OF THIS IN A HURRY, WITH NO REFERENCES.
I'M LOOKING FOR SOMETHING SOLID, SOMETHING REALISTIC ...
...A BUILDING I DREW MYSELF.
EH? *WHAT?*
GOD HAS ***ASSISTANTS*** *...?!*
WELL, YEAH. IT'S NOT EXACTLY HERESY.
TAKE [redacted] BY [redacted] PRETTY FAMOUS MANGA, RIGHT?
EXCEPT... TRUTH IS, HE ONLY DID THE ROUGHS. LEFT THE DETAILS TO HIS FREELANCERS.
YOU FIND ANY HINTS IN THERE...?
GO STRAIGHT, I THINK... WE'RE HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
BUT... LOOK AT THIS!
IF IT'S LIKE WHAT YOU DREW...THE KILLER SHOULD BE WITH HIS NEXT VICTIM NOW...
...I REMEMBER.
RESONANCE
EXACTLY. AND THAT'S WHERE WE'LL FIND LIN.

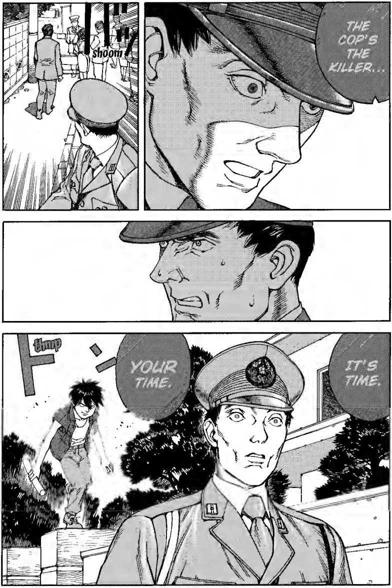

smack
HOW'D IT COME TO THIS ...?
TO "SAVE THE WORLD"...WE HAVE TO PROTECT THAT MONSTER.
CAN WE EVEN STOP LIN? HE'S SO POWERFUL ...
HEH. WITH GOD ON YOUR SIDE...
WHAT'S THE PLAN ...?
WE...
...ARE GOING TO WING IT!!
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW THIS IS GOING TO END?!
LOOK, IT'S A STORY, OKAY? BUT I'M THE CREATOR! HAVE FAITH IN ME!
THAT'S WHAT'S MADE THIS WORLD SUCH A HORRIBLE MESS, GOD!!


IT CAN'T BE...
...ANYONE BUT HIM.
THIS MAKES NUMBER SIX. HE'S KILLING THEM FASTER NOW...
I saw you in my vision... but you were still alive.
What did you see...?
WHAT IS IT, OFFICER ...?

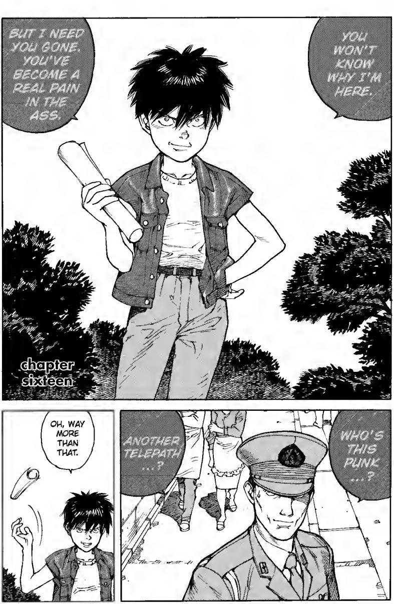

SORRY. WE'RE CLOSED TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.
PLEASE USE AN ALTERNATE ROUTE.
THERE'S AN INVESTIGATION GOING ON...
!
THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE PERPETRATOR. LOOK OUT FOR ANYTHING THAT MIGHT IDENTIFY HIM...
... SATOKO-CHAN.

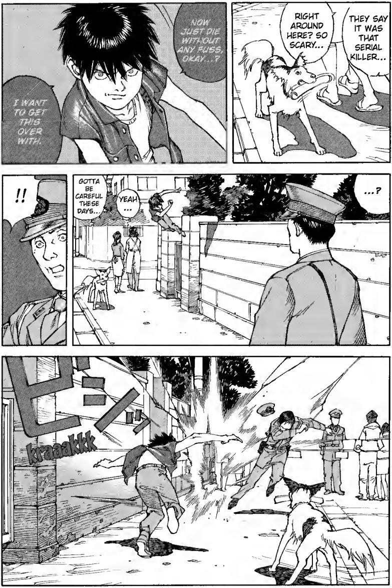

ダッ
tmp
HEY...!
IT CAN'T BE... BUT...
ブゥゥ..
vrmmm
haa
hahh

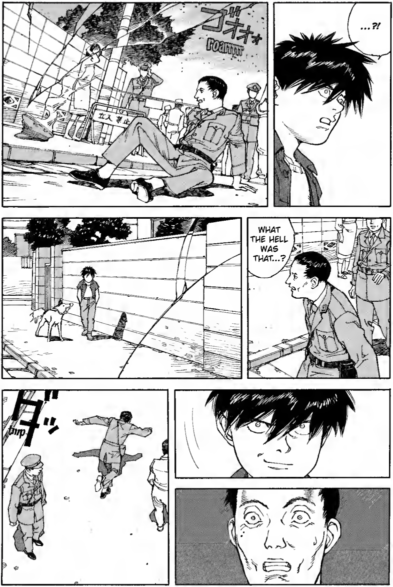

...
...!
HEY...
...WAIT...
ブオオ
CAN I HELP YOU, SIR...?
HAVE I MET HIM BEFORE ...?
...NO.
NO WAY...

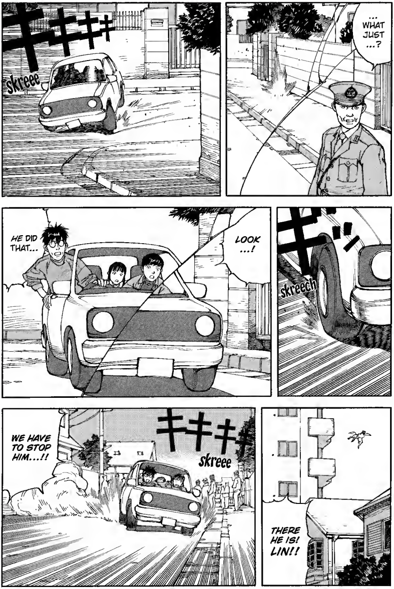

THE COP'S THE KILLER...
shoom
IT'S TIME.
YOUR TIME.
thmp

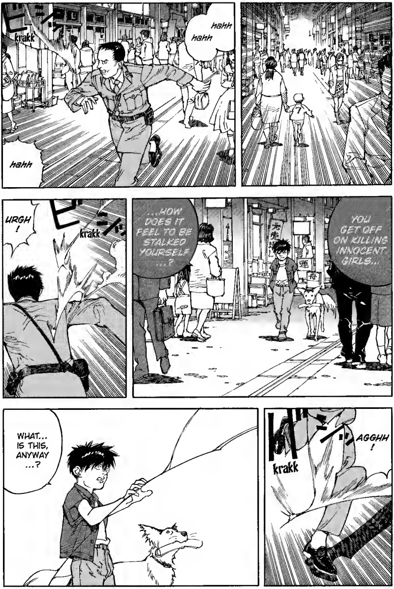
chapter sixteen

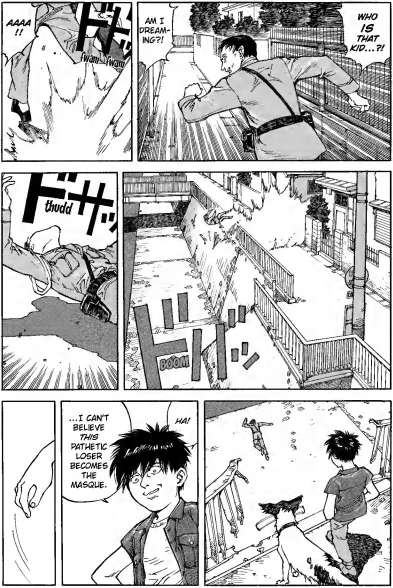

BUT I NEED YOU GONE. YOU'VE BECOME A REAL PAIN IN THE ASS.
YOU WON'T KNOW WHY I'M HERE.
OH, WAY MORE THAN THAT.
ANOTHER TELEPATH ...?
WHO'S THIS PUNK ...?

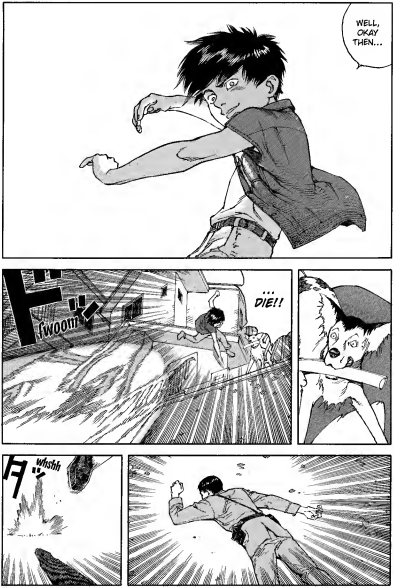

NOW JUST DIE WITHOUT ANY FUSS, OKAY...?
I WANT TO GET THIS OVER WITH.
RIGHT AROUND HERE? SO SCARY...
THEY SAY IT WAS THAT SERIAL KILLER...
!!
GOTTA BE CAREFUL THESE DAYS...
YEAH...
...?
ビ
kraaakkk

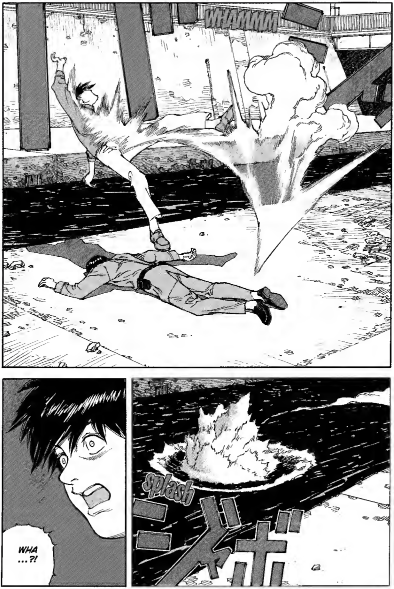

ゴォォ
roarrrr
立入禁止
...?!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT...?
ダッ
tmp

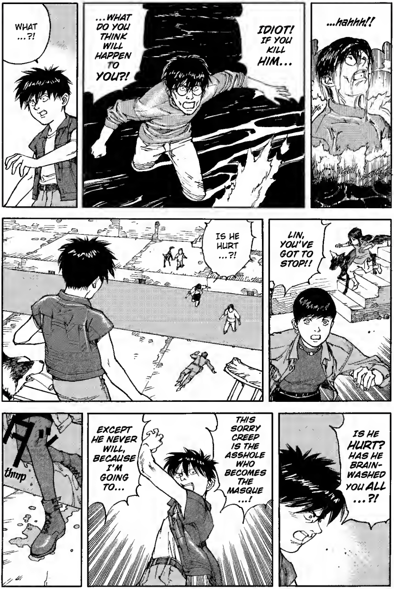

...WHAT JUST ...?
キキキキ
skreee
skreech
LOOK ...!
HE DID THAT...
THERE HE IS! LIN!!
キキキ
skreee
WE HAVE TO STOP HIM...!!

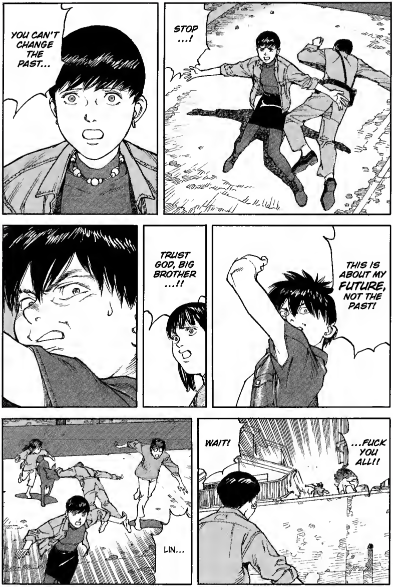

hahh
hahh
krakk
hahh
YOU GET OFF ON KILLING INNOCENT GIRLS...
...HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE STALKED YOURSELF ...?
URGH !
krakk
AGGHH !
krakk
WHAT... IS THIS, ANYWAY ...?

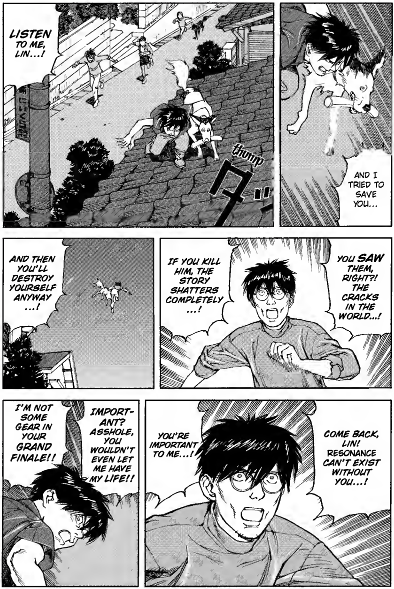

WHO IS THAT KID...?!
AM I DREAMING?!
AAAA !!
fwam fwam
ドサッ
ドドッ
BOOM
thudd
HA!
...I CAN'T BELIEVE *THIS* PATHETIC LOSER BECOMES THE MASQUE.

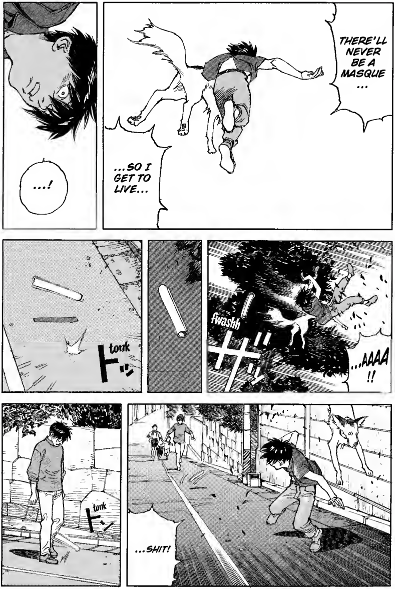

WELL, OKAY THEN...
...DIE!!
ドド
fwoom
タッ
whshh

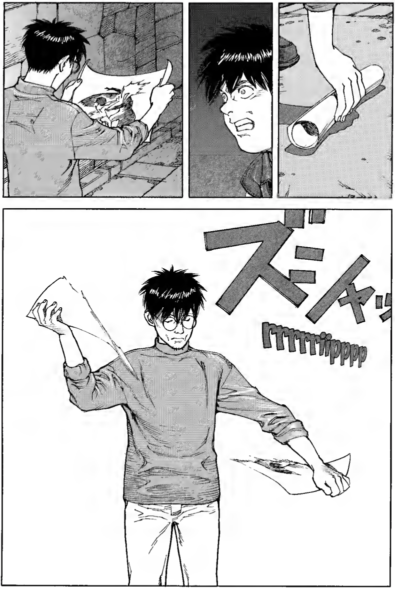

WHAMMMM
splash
ジャボ
WHA
...?!

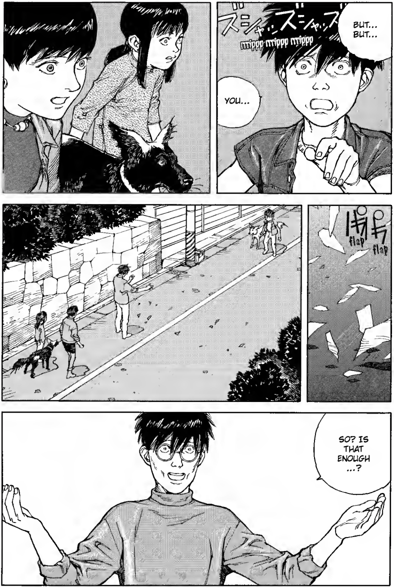

...hahhh!!
IDIOT! IF YOU KILL HIM...
...WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN TO YOU?!
WHAT ...?!
LIN, YOU'VE GOT TO STOP!!
IS HE HURT ...?!
IS HE HURT? HAS HE BRAINWASHED YOU ALL ...?!
THIS SORRY CREEP IS THE ASSHOLE WHO BECOMES THE MASQUE ...!
EXCEPT HE NEVER WILL, BECAUSE I'M GOING TO...
thmp

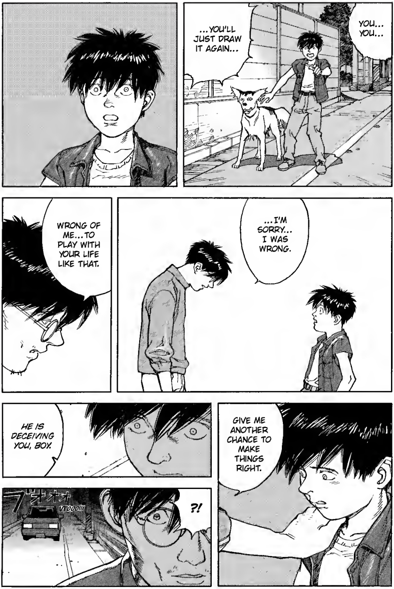

YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST...
STOP ...!
TRUST GOD, BIG BROTHER ...!!
THIS IS ABOUT MY FUTURE, NOT THE PAST!
LIN...
WAIT!
...FUCK YOU ALL!!

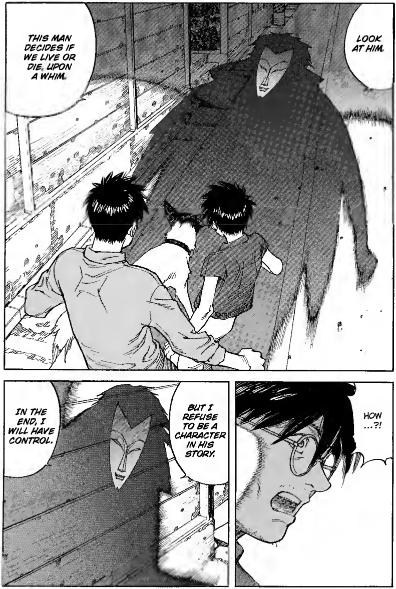

AND I TRIED TO SAVE YOU...
LISTEN TO ME, LIN...!
thump
タッ
YOU SAW THEM, RIGHT?! THE CRACKS IN THE WORLD...!
IF YOU KILL HIM, THE STORY SHATTERS COMPLETELY...!
AND THEN YOU'LL DESTROY YOURSELF ANYWAY...!
COME BACK, LIN! RESONANCE CAN'T EXIST WITHOUT YOU...!
YOU'RE IMPORTANT TO ME...!
IMPORTANT? ASSHOLE, YOU WOULDN'T EVEN LET ME HAVE MY LIFE!!
I'M NOT SOME GEAR IN YOUR GRAND FINALE!!


THERE'LL NEVER BE A MASQUE ...
...SO I GET TO LIVE...
...!
fwashh
ザッ
...AAAA !!
tonk
ドッ
...SHIT!
tonk
ドン

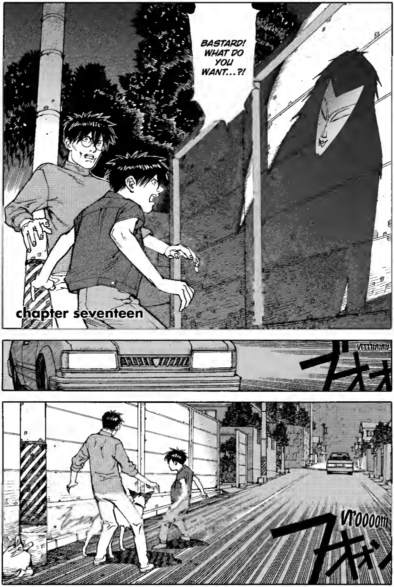

ズシャッ
rrrrriipppp

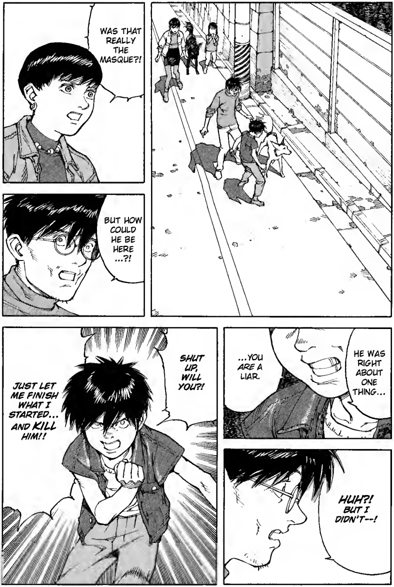

ズシャッズシャッズ
rrripp rrripp rrripp
BUT... BUT...
YOU...
パタパタ
flap flap
SO? IS THAT ENOUGH ...?

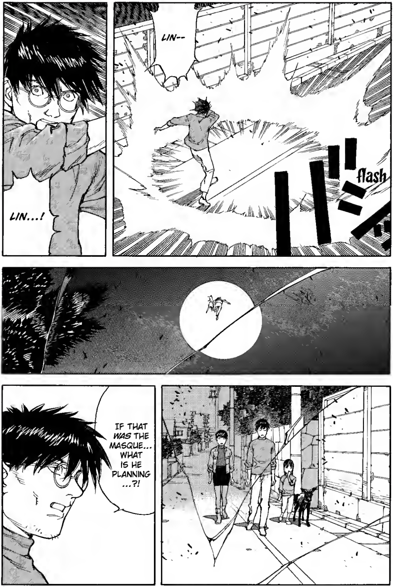

YOU... YOU...
...YOU'LL JUST DRAW IT AGAIN...
...I'M SORRY... I WAS WRONG.
WRONG OF ME...TO PLAY WITH YOUR LIFE LIKE THAT.
GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.
HE IS DECEIVING YOU, BOY.
?!
ブオオオ
VROOO!!!

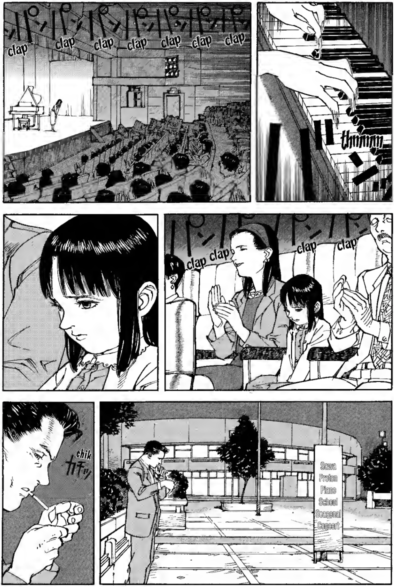

LOOK AT HIM.
THIS MAN DECIDES IF WE LIVE OR DIE, UPON A WHIM.
HOW ...?!
BUT I REFUSE TO BE A CHARACTER IN HIS STORY.
IN THE END, I WILL HAVE CONTROL.

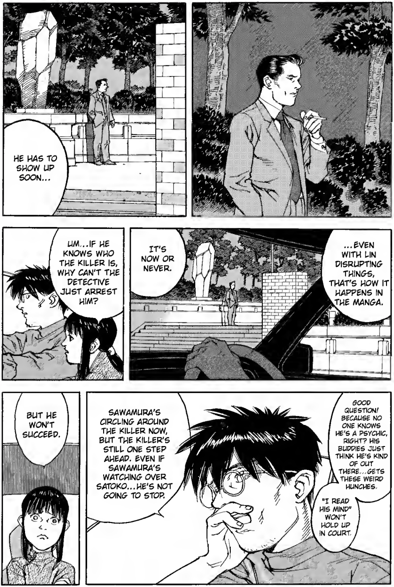
chapter seventeen

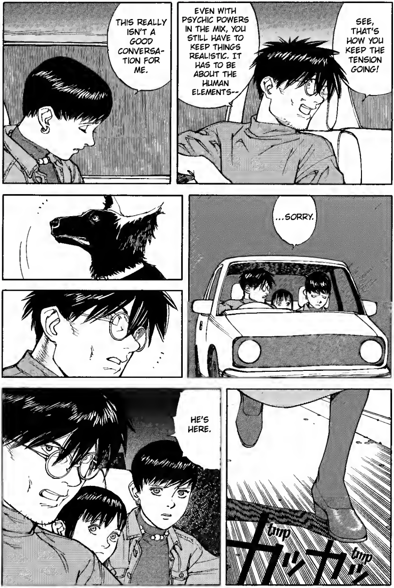

BASTARD! WHAT DO YOU WANT...?!
vrrrmmm
ブオオ
vroooom
フォン

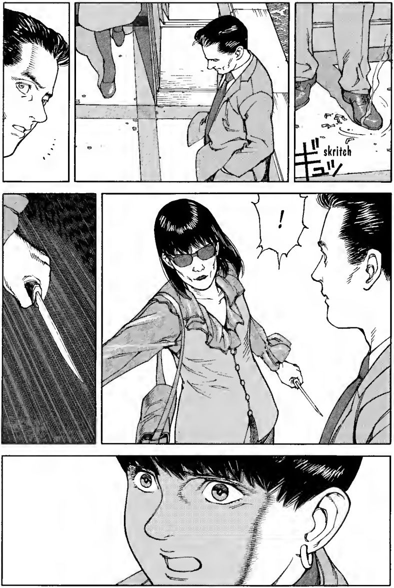

WAS THAT REALLY THE MASQUE?!
BUT HOW COULD HE BE HERE ...?!
SHUT UP, WILL YOU?!
JUST LET ME FINISH WHAT I STARTED... AND KILL HIM!!
HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING...
...YOU ARE A LIAR.
HUH?! BUT I DIDN'T--!

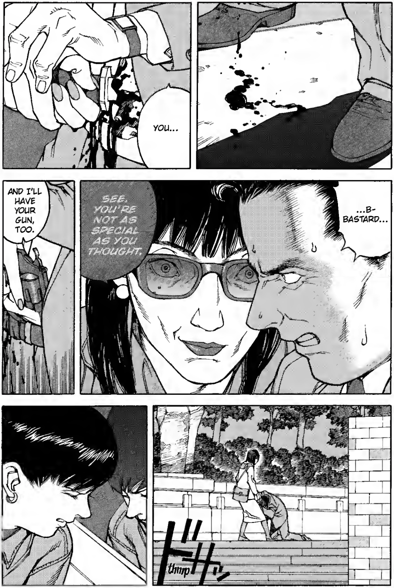

LIN--
flash
LIN...!
IF THAT *WAS* THE MASQUE... WHAT IS HE PLANNING ...?!

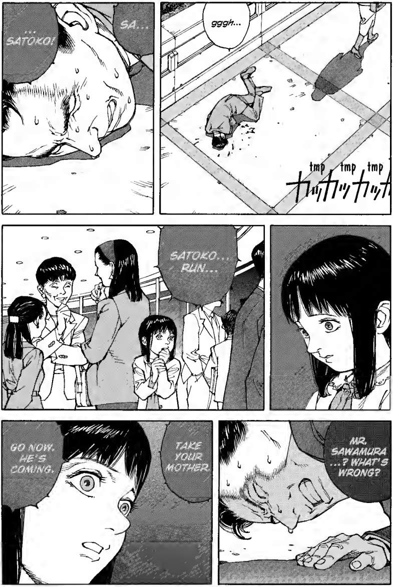

thmmm
clap clap clap clap clap clap clap
clap clap
clap clap
Sawa Proton Piano School Seasonal Concert
カチッ
chik

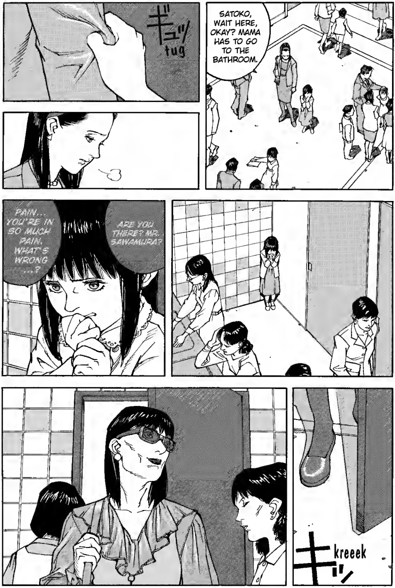

HE HAS TO SHOW UP SOON...
...EVEN WITH LIN DISRUPTING THINGS, THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENS IN THE MANGA.
IT'S NOW OR NEVER.
UM...IF HE KNOWS WHO THE KILLER IS, WHY CAN'T THE DETECTIVE JUST ARREST HIM?
GOOD QUESTION! BECAUSE NO ONE KNOWS HE'S A PSYCHIC, RIGHT? HIS BUDDIES JUST THINK HE'S KIND OF OUT THERE...GETS THESE WEIRD HUNCHES.
"I READ HIS MIND" WON'T HOLD UP IN COURT.
SAWAMURA'S CIRCLING AROUND THE KILLER NOW, BUT THE KILLER'S STILL ONE STEP AHEAD. EVEN IF SAWAMURA'S WATCHING OVER SATOKO...HE'S NOT GOING TO STOP.
BUT HE WON'T SUCCEED.

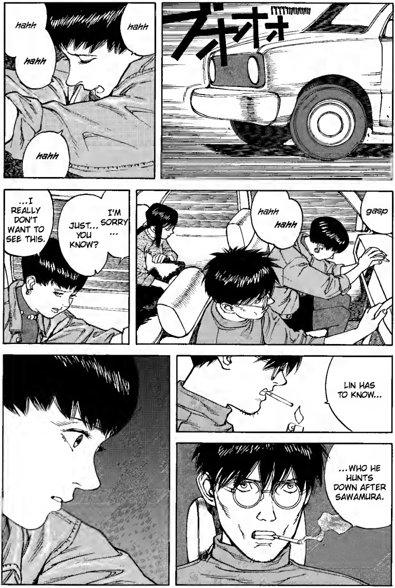

SEE, THAT'S HOW YOU KEEP THE TENSION GOING!
EVEN WITH PSYCHIC POWERS IN THE MIX, YOU STILL HAVE TO KEEP THINGS REALISTIC. IT HAS TO BE ABOUT THE HUMAN ELEMENTS--
THIS REALLY ISN'T A GOOD CONVERSATION FOR ME.
...SORRY.
HE'S HERE.
tmp
tmp
カッカッ

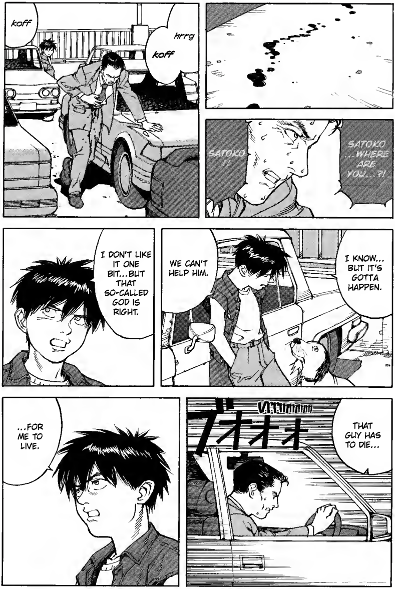

……
ギュッ
skritch
!

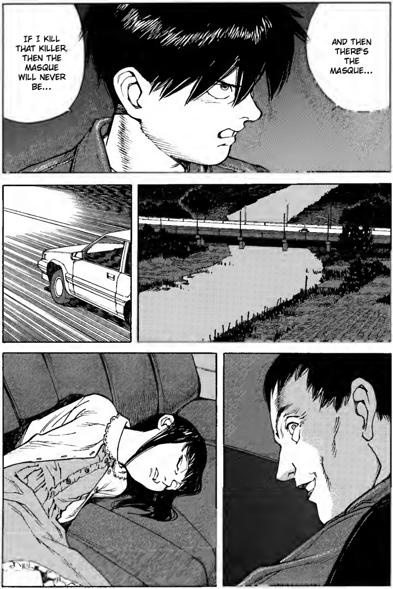

YOU...
AND I'LL HAVE YOUR GUN, TOO.
SEE, YOU'RE NOT AS SPECIAL AS YOU THOUGHT.
...B-BASTARD...
ドザッ
thump

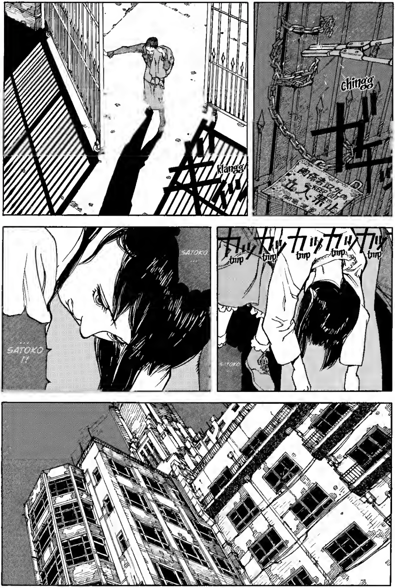

gggh...
tmp tmp tmp
カッカッカッカ
SA...
...SATOKO!
SATOKO... RUN...
MR. SAWAMURA ...? WHAT'S WRONG?
TAKE YOUR MOTHER.
GO NOW. HE'S COMING.

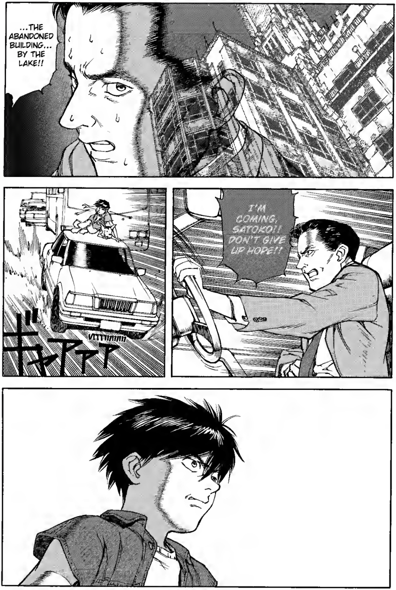

SATOKO, WAIT HERE, OKAY? MAMA HAS TO GO TO THE BATHROOM.
ギュッ
tug
ARE YOU THERE? MR. SAWAMURA?
PAIN... YOU'RE IN SO MUCH PAIN. WHAT'S WRONG ...?
ギッ
kreeek

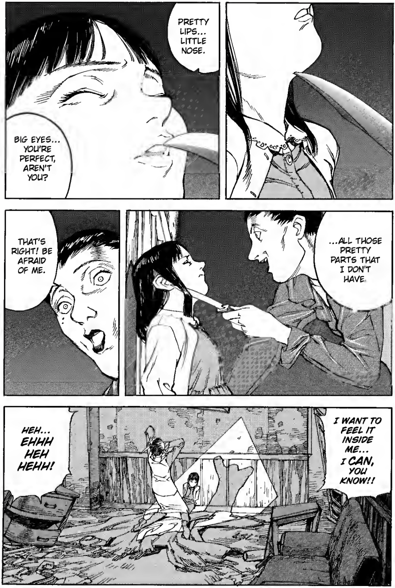

hahh
hahh
hahh
hahh
ブオオ
rrrrmmmmm
...I REALLY DON'T WANT TO SEE THIS.
JUST... YOU KNOW?
I'M SORRY ...
hahh
hahh
gasp
LIN HAS TO KNOW...
...WHO HE HUNTS DOWN AFTER SAWAMURA.

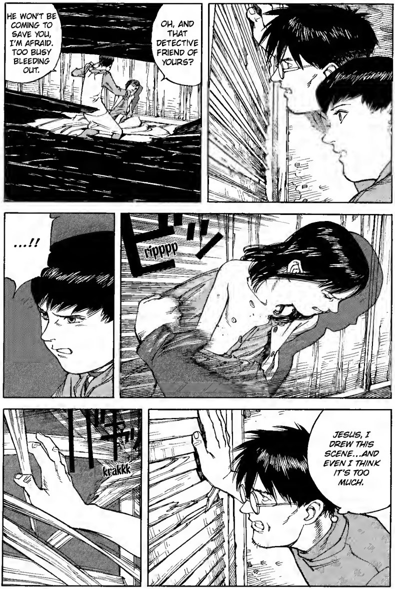

hrrg
koff
koff
SATOKO ...WHERE ARE YOU...?!
SATOKO ?!
I KNOW... BUT IT'S GOTTA HAPPEN.
WE CAN'T HELP HIM.
I DON'T LIKE IT ONE BIT...BUT THAT SO-CALLED GOD IS RIGHT.
ブオオオ
VRRmmmm
THAT GUY HAS TO DIE...
...FOR ME TO LIVE.

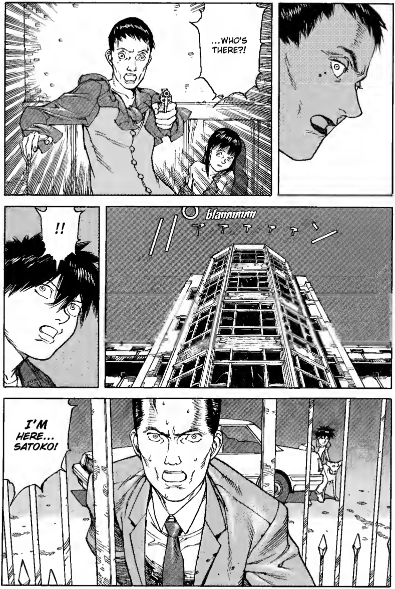

AND THEN THERE'S THE MASQUE...
IF I KILL THAT KILLER THEN THE MASQUE WILL NEVER BE...


chingg
関係者以外の
KEEP OUT
立入禁止
klangg
カッカッカッカッカッ
tmp
tmp
tmp
tmp
tmp
SATOKO
SATOKO
...
... SATOKO !!

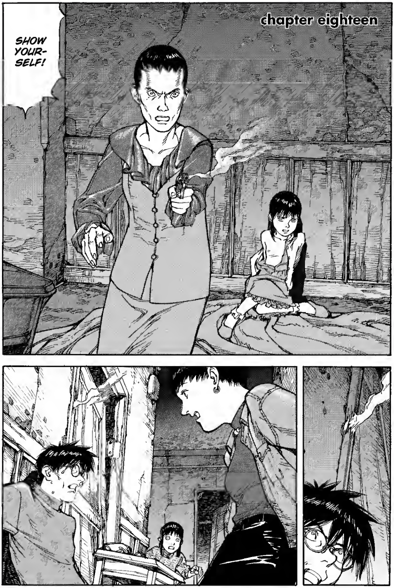

...THE ABANDONED BUILDING... BY THE LAKE!!
I'M COMING, SATOKO!! DON'T GIVE UP HOPE!!
ギャアァァ
VITTTIIIIIII

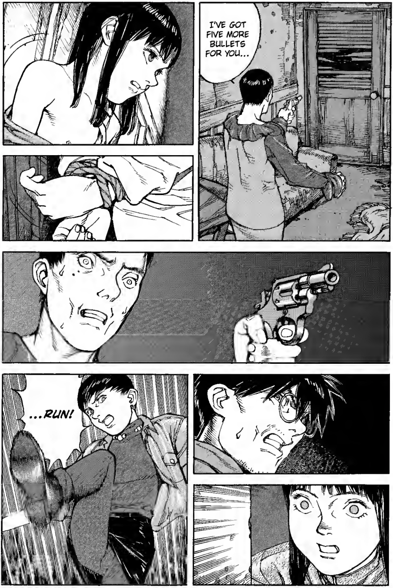

PRETTY LIPS... LITTLE NOSE.
BIG EYES... YOU'RE PERFECT, AREN'T YOU?
...ALL THOSE PRETTY PARTS THAT I DON'T HAVE.
THAT'S RIGHT! BE AFRAID OF ME.
I WANT TO FEEL IT INSIDE ME... I CAN, YOU KNOW!!
HEH... EHHH HEH HEHH!

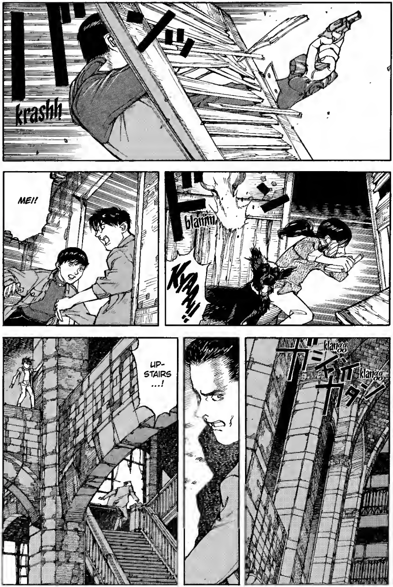

OH, AND THAT DETECTIVE FRIEND OF YOURS?
HE WON'T BE COMING TO SAVE YOU, I'M AFRAID. TOO BUSY BLEEDING OUT.
ripppp
...!!
JESUS, I DREW THIS SCENE...AND EVEN I THINK IT'S TOO MUCH.
krakkk

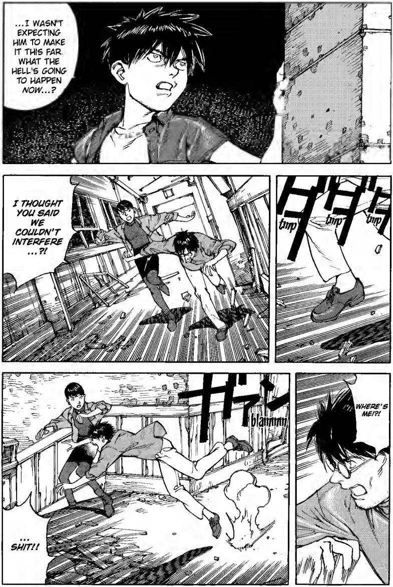

...WHO'S THERE?!
!!
blammmm
I'M HERE... SATOKO!

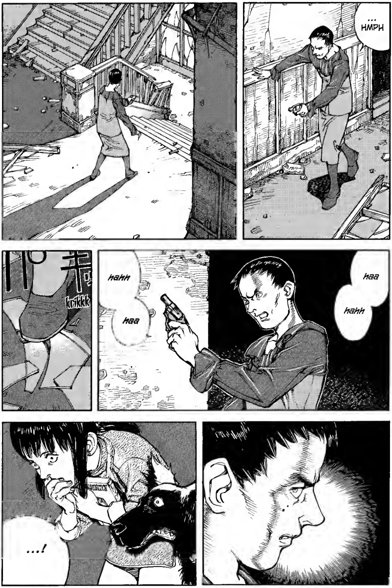
chapter eighteen

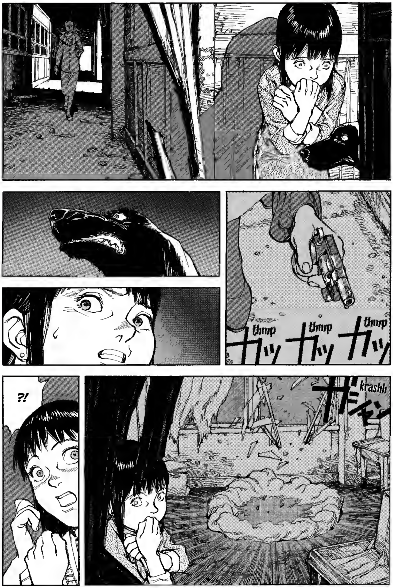

SHOW YOUR-SELF!

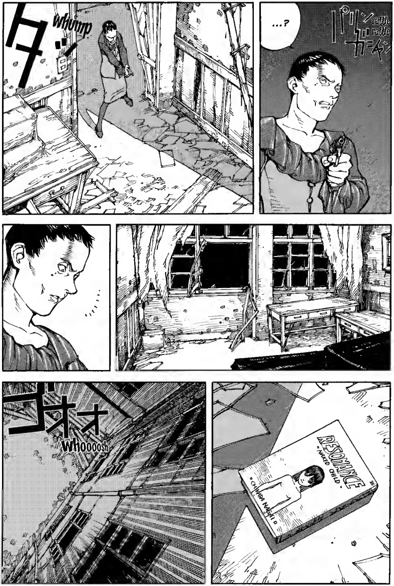

I'VE GOT FIVE MORE BULLETS FOR YOU...
...RUN!

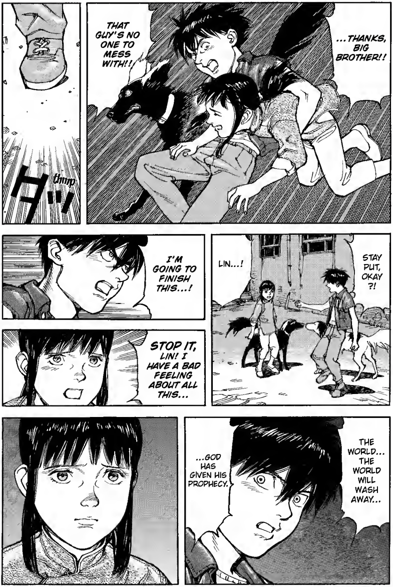

krashh
MEI!
blammm
KYAAA!!
UP-STAIRS ...!
klangg
klangg
カタン

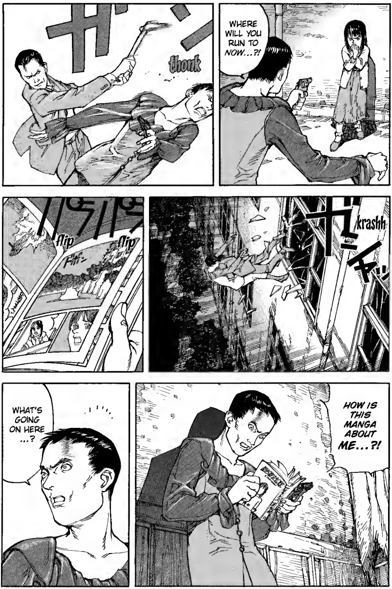

...I WASN'T EXPECTING HIM TO MAKE IT THIS FAR WHAT THE HELL'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW...?
ダダダ
tmp tmp tmp
I THOUGHT YOU SAID WE COULDN'T INTERFERE ...?!
WHERE'S MEI?!
ガァン
blammm
... SHIT!!

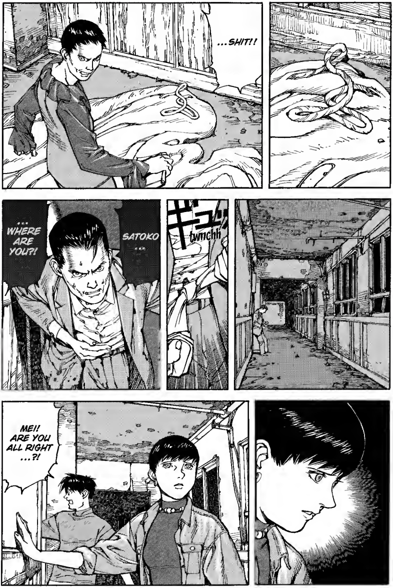

... HMPH
haa
hahh
hahh
haa
パキッ
krikkk
...!

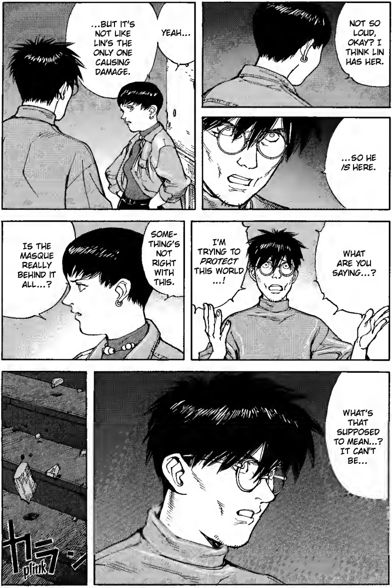

thmp
ガッ
thmp
ガッ
thmp
ガッ
krashh
ガチャン
?!

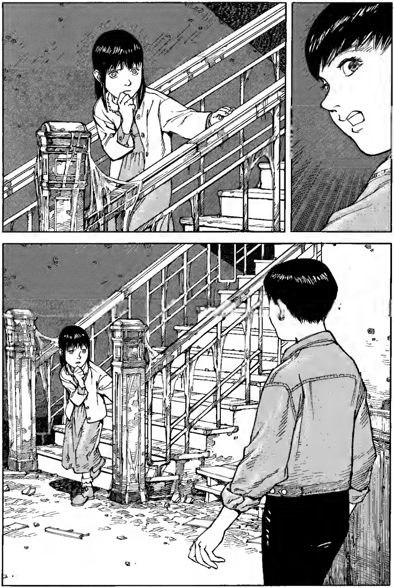

...?
パリン
ガシャン
rattle
rattle
タ
whump
……
RESONANCE
• NAKED CHILD •
▫ CHIHARA NAGI ▫
ゴオオ
Whoooosh

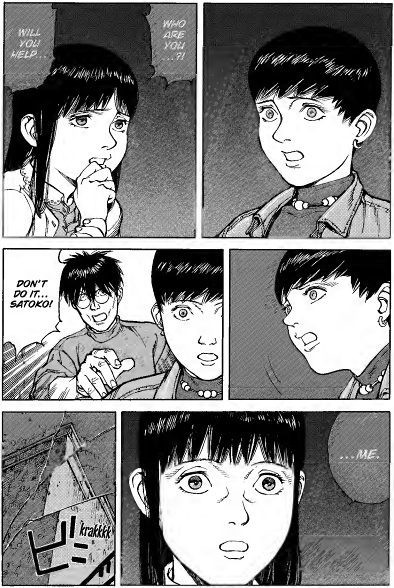

タッ
thmp
THAT GUY'S NO ONE TO MESS WITH!!
...THANKS, BIG BROTHER!!
I'M GOING TO FINISH THIS...!
LIN...!
STAY PUT, OKAY?!
STOP IT, LIN! I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT ALL THIS...
...GOD HAS GIVEN HIS PROPHECY.
THE WORLD... THE WORLD WILL WASH AWAY...

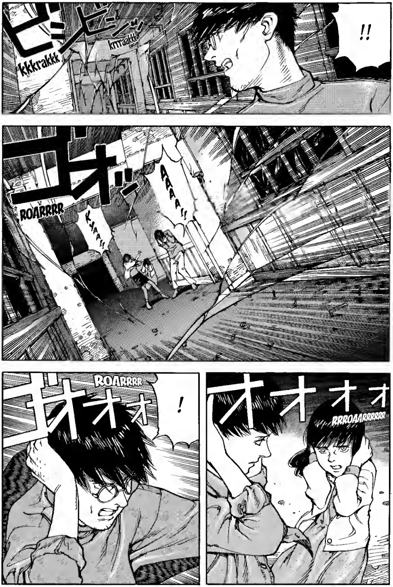

WHERE WILL YOU RUN TO NOW...?!
ガン
thonk
krashh
パラ パラ
flip
flip
HOW IS THIS MANGA ABOUT ME...?!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE ...?

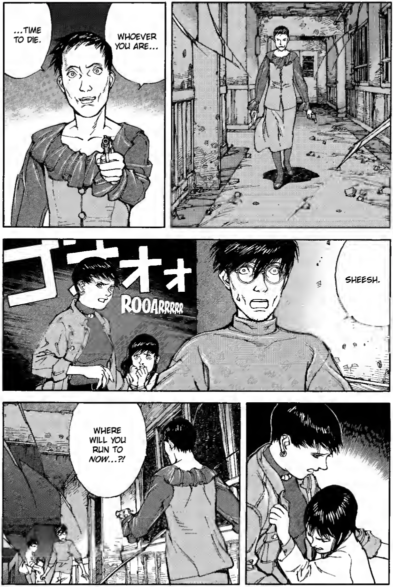

...SHIT!!
ギュッ
twnchh
SATOKO ...
...WHERE ARE YOU?!
MEI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ...?!

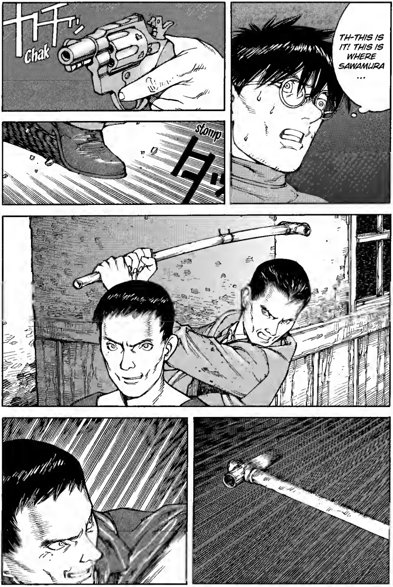

...BUT IT'S NOT LIKE LIN'S THE ONLY ONE CAUSING DAMAGE.
YEAH...
NOT SO LOUD, OKAY? I THINK LIN HAS HER.
...SO HE *IS* HERE.
IS THE MASQUE REALLY BEHIND IT ALL...?
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT WITH THIS.
I'M TRYING TO *PROTECT* THIS WORLD ...!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?
カラ
plink
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN...? IT CAN'T BE...

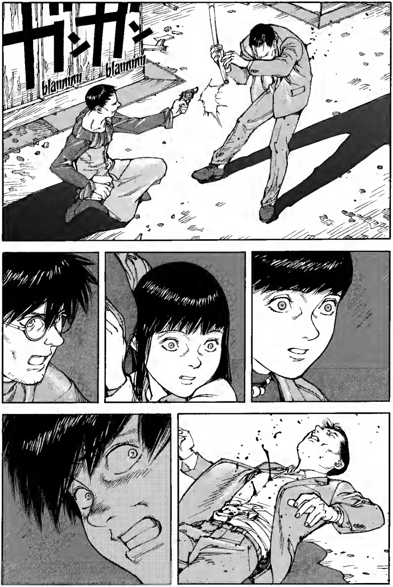


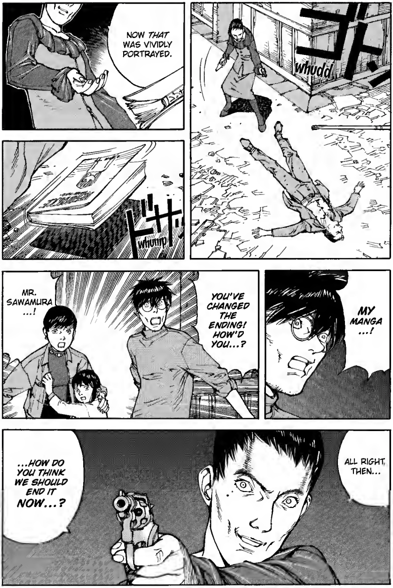

WHO ARE YOU ...?!
WILL YOU HELP...
DON'T DO IT... SATOKO!
...ME.
krakkkk


ビ
kkkrakkk
ビーッ
krrraakkk
!!
ゴオッ
ROARRRR
Kyaaa!!
AAAAA!!
ゴオォ
ROARRRR
!
オオォォ
RRROAARRRRRR

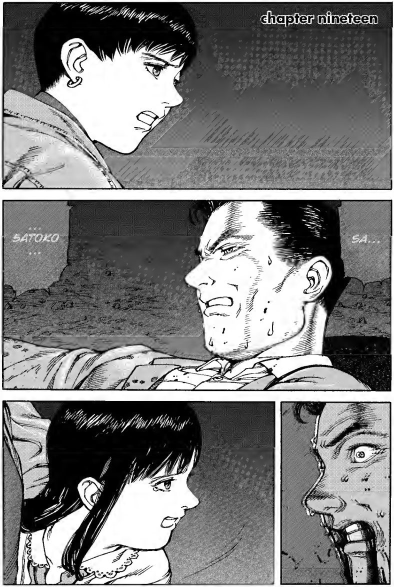

WHOEVER YOU ARE...
...TIME TO DIE.
SHEESH.
ゴオォ
ROOARRRRR
WHERE WILL YOU RUN TO *NOW...?!*

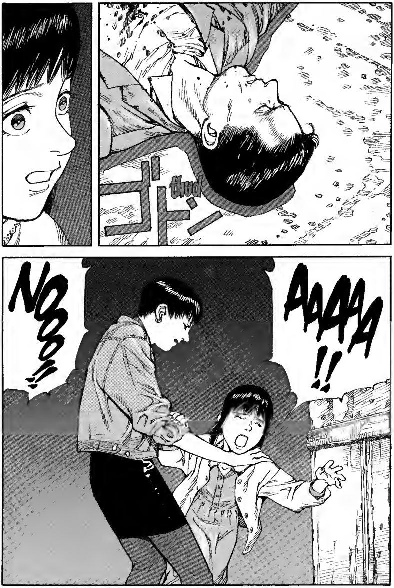

TH-THIS IS IT! THIS IS WHERE SAWAMURA ...
カチッ
Chak
stomp
ダッ

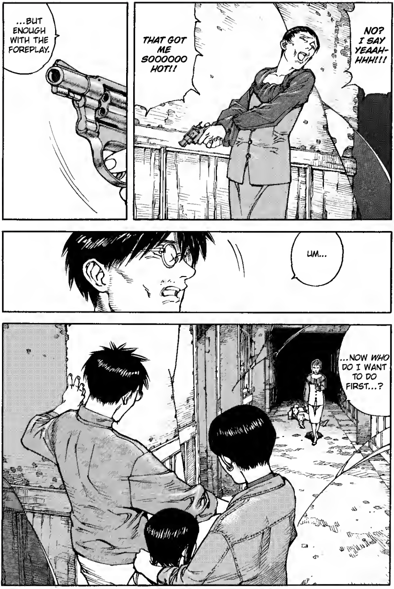

ガンガン
blammm
blammm

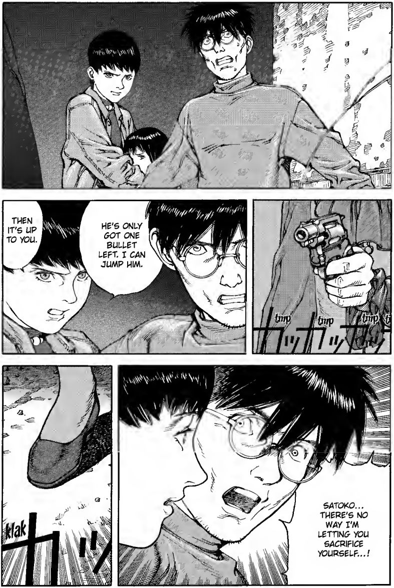

whudd
NOW THAT WAS VIVIDLY PORTRAYED.
ドサッ
whump
MY MANGA ...!
YOU'VE CHANGED THE ENDING! HOW'D YOU...?
MR. SAWAMURA ...!
ALL RIGHT THEN...
...HOW DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD END IT NOW...?

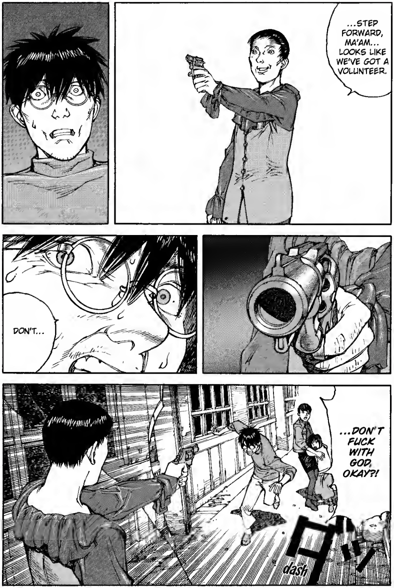
chapter nineteen

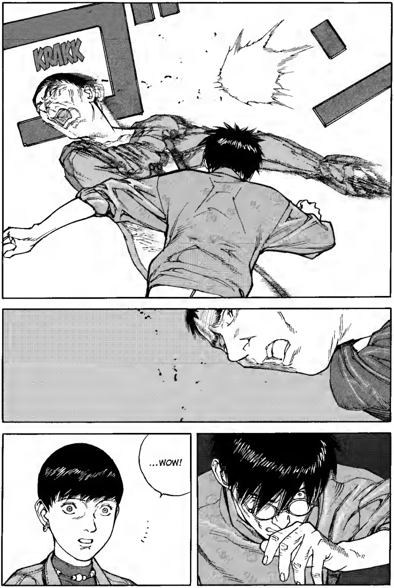


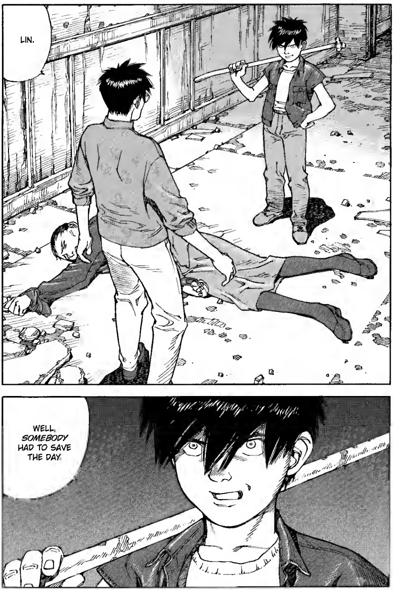

ゴドン
thud
AAAAA!!
NOOO!!

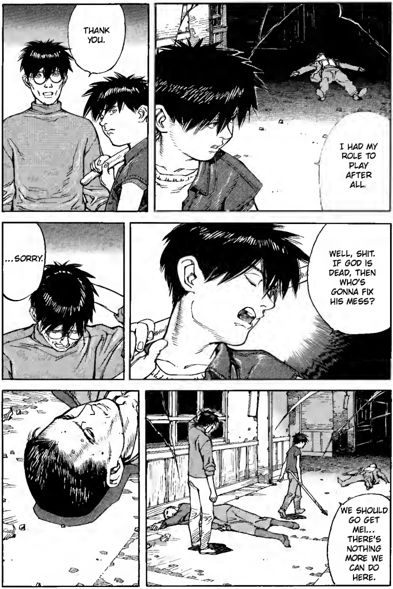

NO? I SAY YEAAH-HHH!!!
THAT GOT ME SOOOOOO HOT!!
...BUT ENOUGH WITH THE FOREPLAY.
UM...
...NOW WHO DO I WANT TO DO FIRST...?

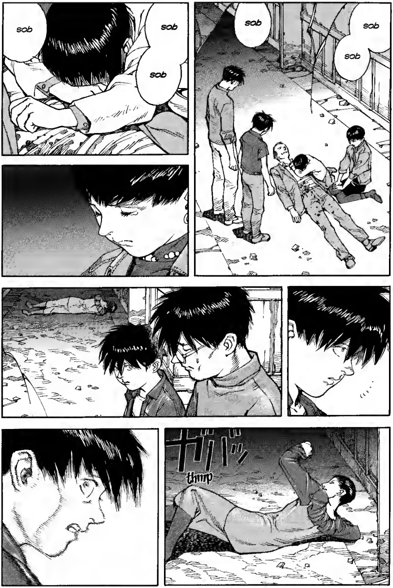

tmp tmp tmp t
カッカッカッ
HE'S ONLY GOT ONE BULLET LEFT. I CAN JUMP HIM.
THEN IT'S UP TO YOU.
SATOKO... THERE'S NO WAY I'M LETTING YOU SACRIFICE YOURSELF...!
klak
カッ

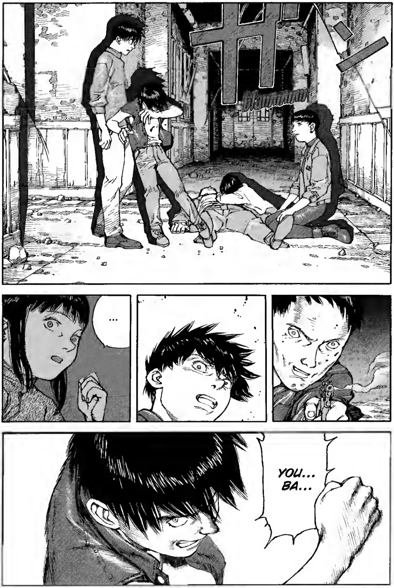

...STEP FORWARD, MA'AM... LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A VOLUNTEER.
DON'T...
...DON'T FUCK WITH GOD, OKAY?!
ダッ
dash

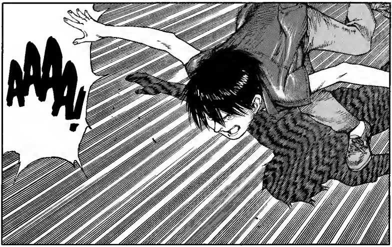

KRAKK
...WOW!

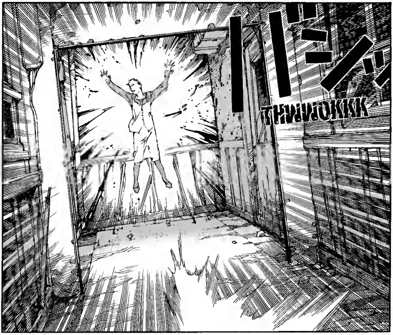

LIN.
WELL, *SOMEBODY* HAD TO SAVE THE DAY.

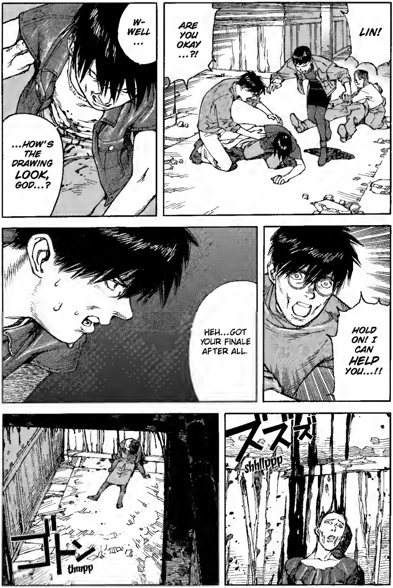

THANK YOU.
I HAD MY ROLE TO PLAY AFTER ALL.
...SORRY.
WELL, SHIT. IF GOD IS DEAD, THEN WHO'S GONNA FIX HIS MESS?
WE SHOULD GO GET MEI... THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO HERE.

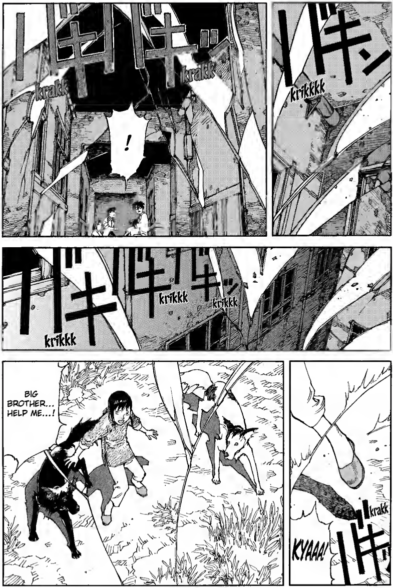

sob
sob
sob
sob
sob
sob
.....
ガバッ
thmp

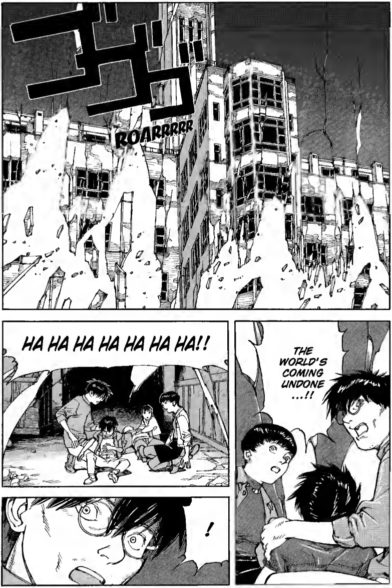

ガ
blammmmm
...
YOU... BA...

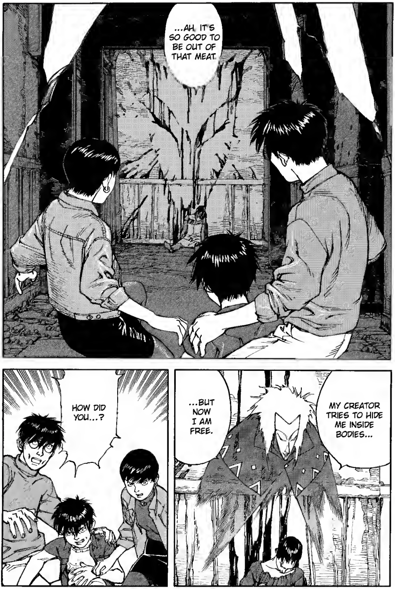

AAAA!

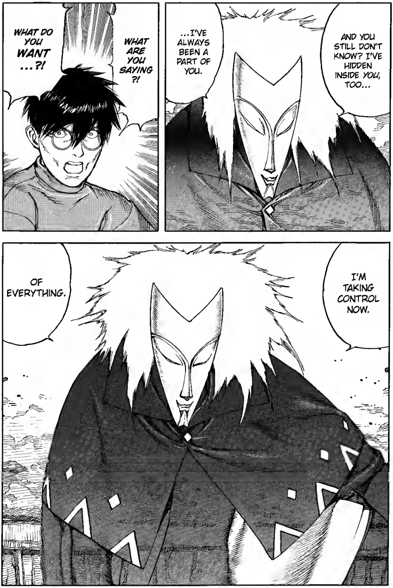

THWWOKKK

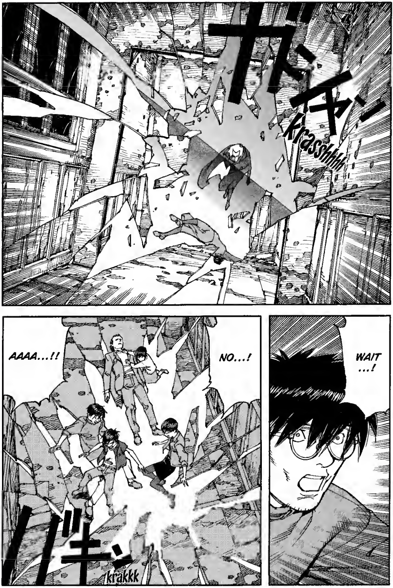

W-WELL...
...HOW'S THE DRAWING LOOK, GOD...?
ARE YOU OKAY...?!
LIN!
HEH...GOT YOUR FINALE AFTER ALL.
HOLD ON! I CAN HELP YOU...!!
ゴトン
thmpp
ズズズ
shhllppp

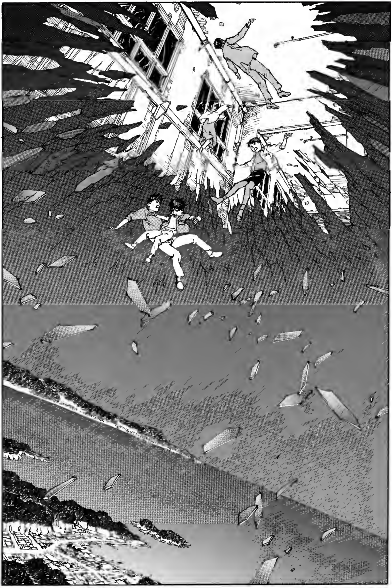

ドキン
krikkk
ドギ
ドギッ
krakk
krakk
!
ドギ
ドギ
ドギッ
krikkk
krikkk
krikkk
ドギッ
krakk
KYAAA!
BIG BROTHER... HELP ME...!


ゴゴ
ROARRRRR
THE WORLD'S COMING UNDONE ...!!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!!
!


...AH, IT'S SO GOOD TO BE OUT OF THAT MEAT.
MY CREATOR TRIES TO HIDE ME INSIDE BODIES...
...BUT NOW I AM FREE.
HOW DID YOU...?


AND YOU STILL DON'T KNOW? I'VE HIDDEN INSIDE *YOU*, TOO...
...I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ?!
WHAT DO YOU ***WANT*** *...?!*
I'M TAKING CONTROL NOW.
OF EVERYTHING.


ガシャーン
krasshhh
WAIT ...!
NO...!
AAAA...!!
バキッ
krakkk



DESONANCE
opus

RESONANCE
OPUS

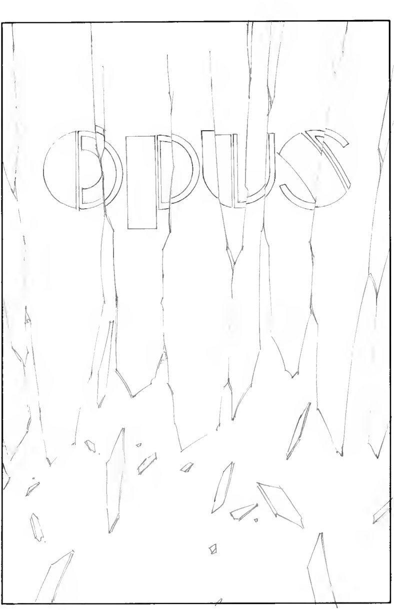
"What is fiction? What is reality?" These themes that define the late director Satoshi Kon's animated films were first explored in his comic series *OPUS*. Serialized by Gakken from October 1995 to June 1996 in *Comic Guy's* magazine, *OPUS* was Kon's final long-form manga.

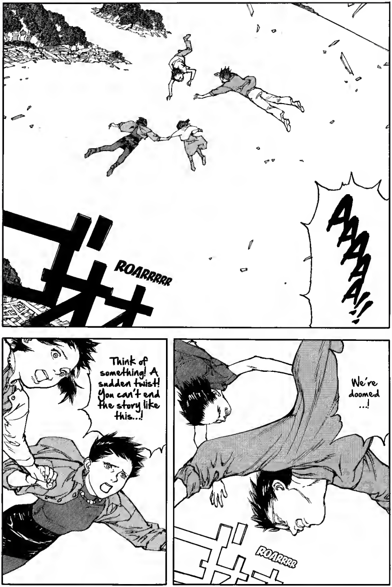
An experimental work to start with, *OPUS* plunged further and further into the worlds of metafiction and the merging of creator and creation in forms of entertainment. As Kon's directorial career took off, his manga career was put on hold. *OPUS* went on permanent hiatus and would not be completed.

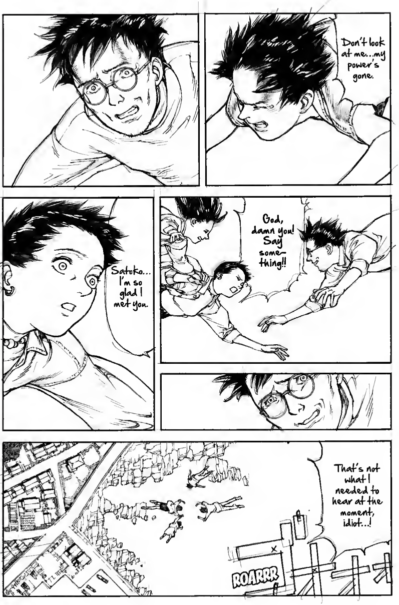
Although it was never officially announced, Kon worked on an additional chapter, which was itself never finished or published for various reasons. This chapter was found in his files after his death. It is mostly uninked and drawn in rough pencils. However, even given the raw state of the art, we feel that there is enough here to distinguish the characters and understand the intent of the story.

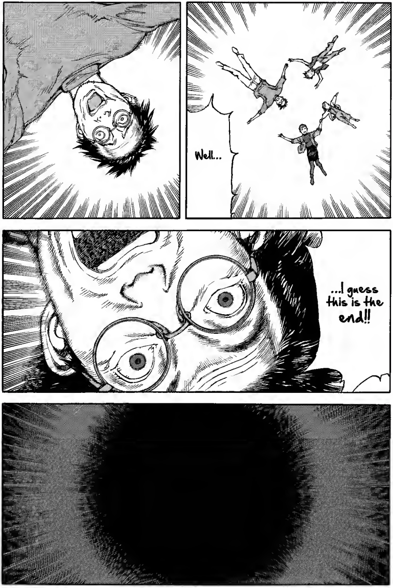
After consulting with Kon's family and getting their permission, we are honored to publish the final chapter of *OPUS* for the first time, just as it was found.

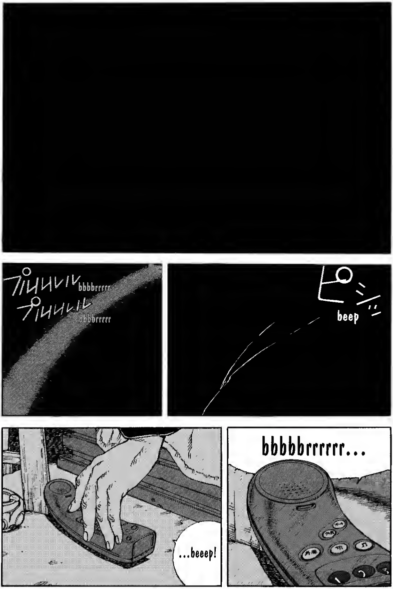
Thank you very much,
Ryu Comics Editorial Department
[original Japanese publishers of the collected *OPUS*]

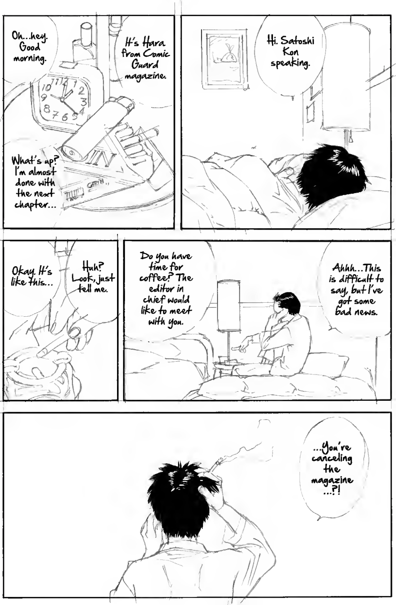

OPUS

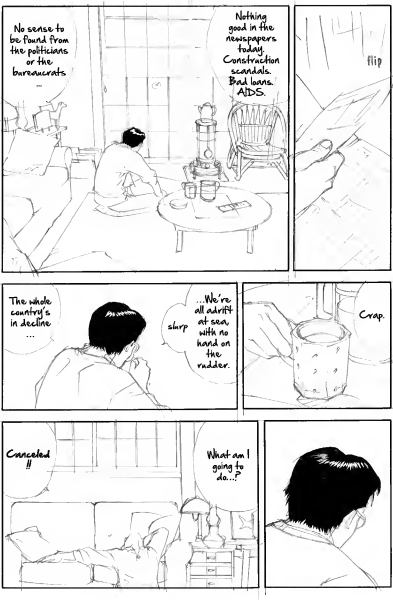

ROARRRRR
AAAAA!!
Think of something! A sudden twist! You can't end the story like this...!
We're doomed ...!
ROARRRR

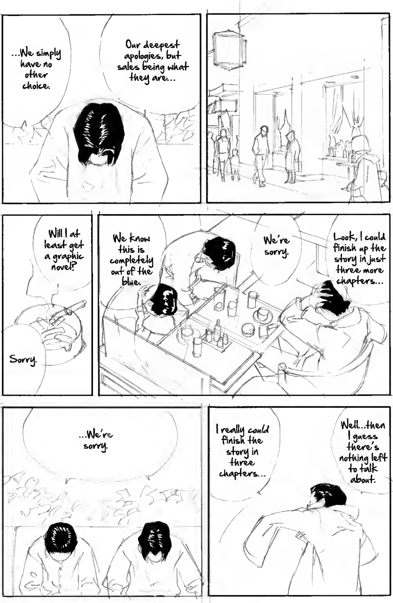

Don't look at me...my power's gone.
Satoko... I'm so glad I met you.
God, damn you! Say something!!
That's not what I needed to hear at the moment, idiot...!
ROARRR

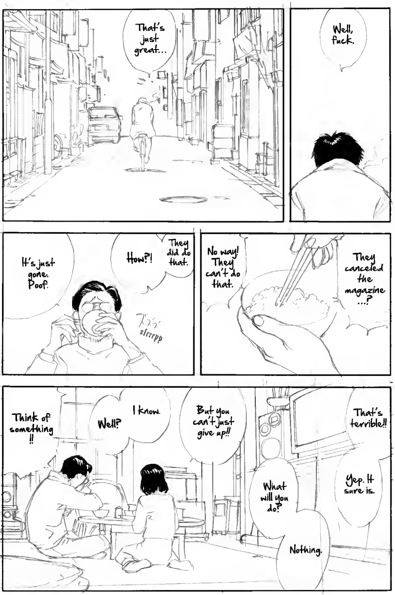

Well...
...I guess this is the end!!

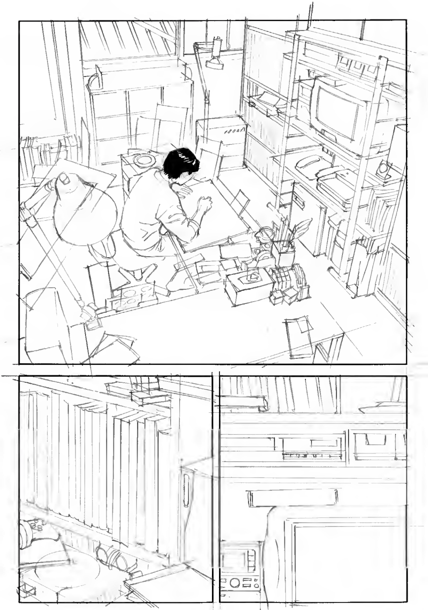

プルルルル bbbbrrrrr
プルルル bbbbrrrrr
ピロ beep
...beeep!
bbbbbrrrrr...

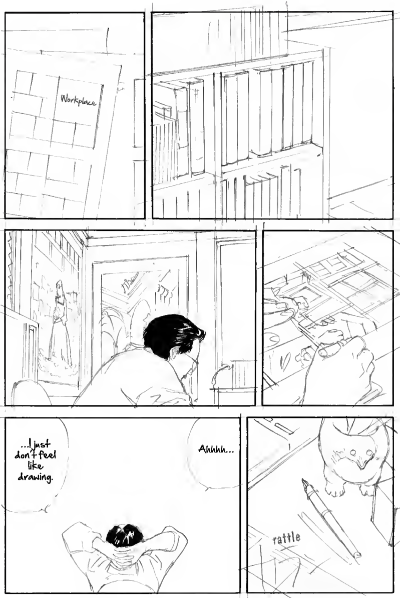

Hi. Satoshi Kon speaking.
It's Hara from Comic Guard magazine.
Oh...hey. Good morning.
What's up? I'm almost done with the next chapter...
Ahhh...This is difficult to say, but I've got some bad news.
Do you have time for coffee? The editor in chief would like to meet with you.
Huh? Look, just tell me.
Okay. It's like this...
...You're canceling the magazine...?!

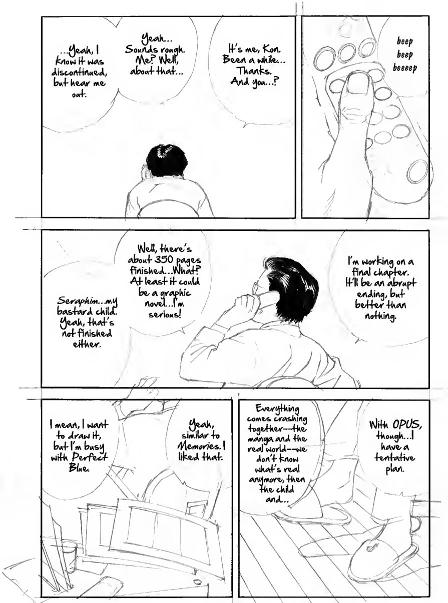

Nothing good in the newspapers today. Construction scandals. Bad loans. AIDS.
No sense to be found from the politicians or the bureaucrats ...
flip
The whole country's in decline ...
slurp
...We're all adrift at sea, with no hand on the rudder.
Crap.
Canceled !!
What am I going to do...?

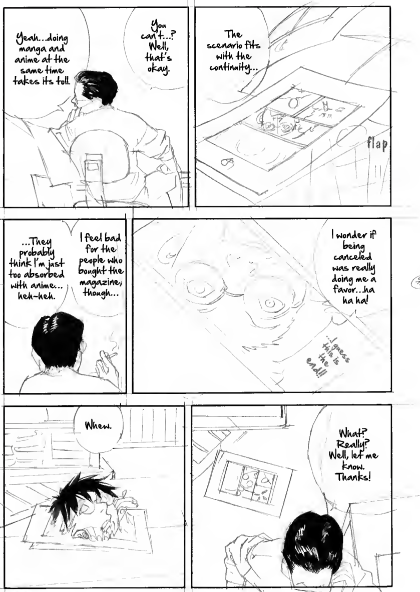

Our deepest apologies, but sales being what they are...
...We simply have no other choice.
Look, I could finish up the story in just three more chapters...
We're sorry.
We know this is completely out of the blue.
Will I at least get a graphic novel?
Sorry.
Well...then I guess there's nothing left to talk about.
I really could finish the story in three chapters...
...We're sorry.

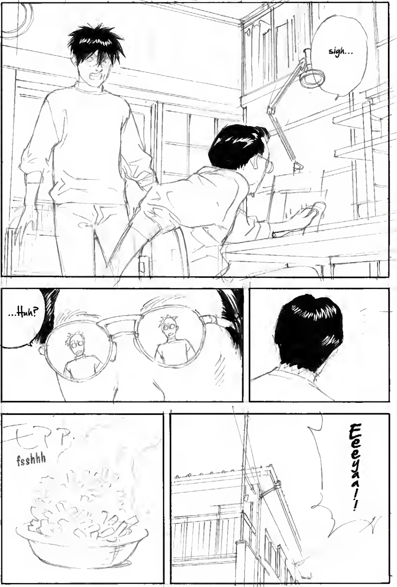

Well, fuck.
That's just great...
They canceled the magazine...?
No way! They can't do that.
They did do that.
How?!
It's just gone. Poof.
slrrrpp
That's terrible!!
Yep. It sure is.
But you can't just give up!!
What will you do?
Nothing.
I know.
Well?
Think of something!!

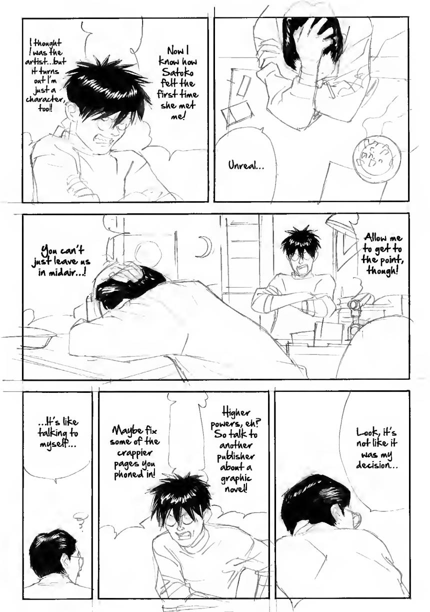


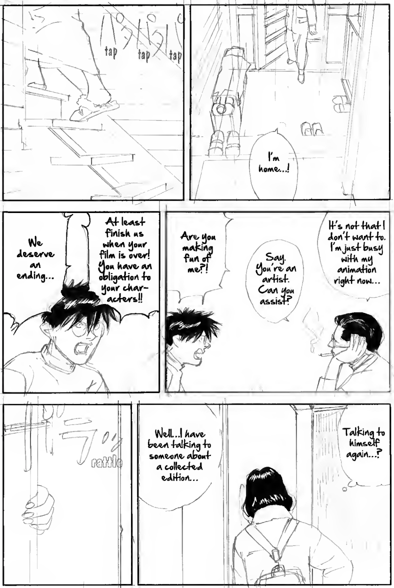

Workplace
...I just don't feel like drawing.
Ahhhh...
rattle

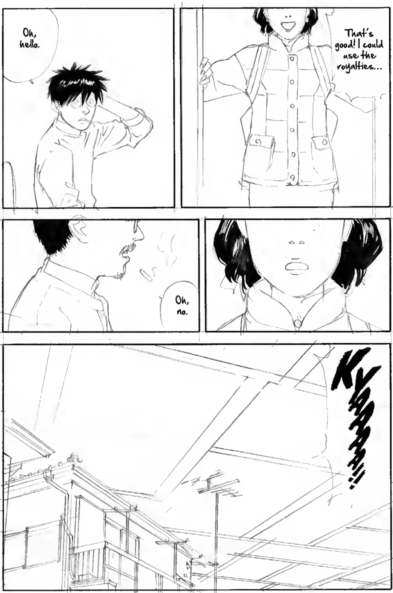

beep
beep
beeeep
It's me, Kon. Been a while... Thanks. And you...?
Yeah... Sounds rough. Me? Well, about that...
...Yeah, I know it was discontinued, but hear me out.
I'm working on a final chapter. It'll be an abrupt ending, but better than nothing.
Well, there's about 350 pages finished...What? At least it could be a graphic novel...I'm serious!
Seraphim...my bastard child. Yeah, that's not finished either.
With *OPUS*, though...I have a tentative plan.
Everything comes crashing together--the manga and the real world--we don't know what's real anymore, then the child and...
Yeah, similar to *Memories*. I liked that.
I mean, I want to draw it, but I'm busy with *Perfect Blue*.


The scenario fits with the continuity...
flap
You can't...? Well, that's okay.
Yeah...doing manga and anime at the same time takes its toll.
I wonder if being canceled was really doing me a favor...ha ha ha!
...I guess this is the end!!
I feel bad for the people who bought the magazine, though...
...They probably think I'm just too absorbed with anime... heh-heh.
What? Really? Well, let me know. Thanks!
Whew.

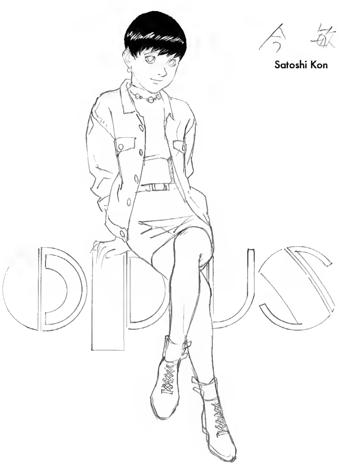

sigh...
...Huh?
Eeeyaa!!
モアア
fsshhh


Unreal...
Now I know how Satoko felt the first time she met me!
I thought I was the artist...but it turns out I'm just a character, too!!
Allow me to get to the point, though!
You can't just leave us in midair...!
Look, it's not like it was my decision...
Higher powers, eh? So talk to another publisher about a graphic novel!
Maybe fix some of the crappier pages you phoned in!
...It's like talking to myself...


I'm home...!
tap
tap
tap
It's not that I don't want to. I'm just busy with my animation right now...
Say. You're an artist. Can you assist?
Are you making fun of me?!
At least finish us when your film is over! You have an obligation to your characters!!
We deserve an ending...
Talking to himself again...?
Well... I have been talking to someone about a collected edition...
rattle


Oh, hello.
That's good! I could use the royalties...
Oh, no.
KYAAAAA!!!

From the manga *OPUS*, serialized about a year ago in the now-defunct magazine *Comic Guy's*. She'll get the cool ending she deserves someday. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone who supported and enjoyed the series.

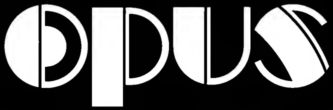


今 敏

Satoshi Kon

I'm not sure where or when, but I look forward to meeting you again!

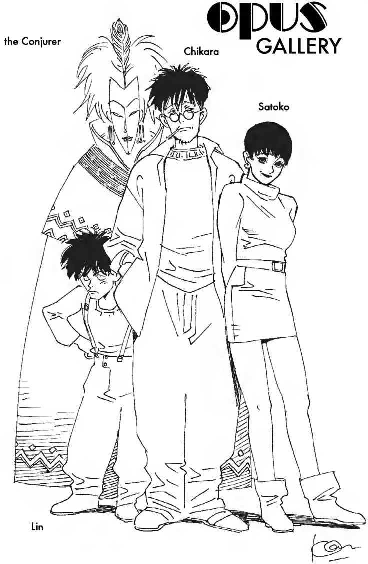
THE END


opus

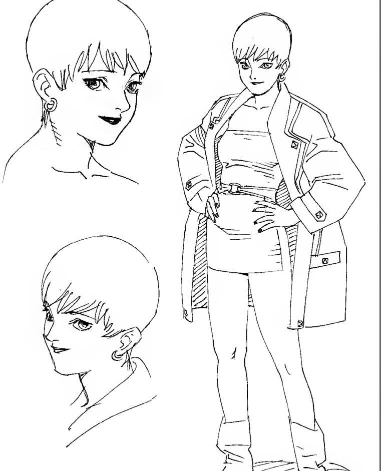
opus

DESIGN GALLERY

OPUS GALLERY


the Conjurer
Chikara
Satoko
Lin

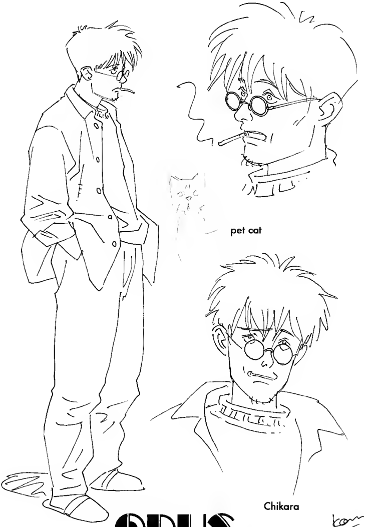
Early character designs, from before the series began. The Masque was originally called "the Canjurer."



Satoko

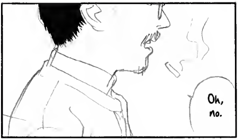
OPUS GALLERY

Working on costume design here. The character design is more or less the same and hasn't changed from the initial stage.


pet cat
Chikara
kon

OPUS
GALLERY

In these first raugh sketches, the characters were drawn much yaunger.



Satoshi Kon also made a cameo in his 2004 TV series *Paranoia Agent*.

ABOUT SATOSHI KON

Satoshi Kon was born on October 12, 1963, in Sapporo, capital of Japan's northernmost prefecture, Hokkaido. When he was four years old, his father transferred to Kushiro in eastern Hokkaido, where they lived until Kon was in the third grade. From fourth to eighth grade they lived again in Sapporo, and then moved back to Kushiro, where Kon finished high school. Comic artist Seiho Tokizawa, whose manga *Who Fighter* was published by Dark Horse in 2006, was a classmate and friend of Kon's in Sapporo. Attending Hokkaido Kushiro Koryo High School, Kon decided that he wanted to be an illustrator. In 1982, he entered the graphic arts department of Musashino Art University in Tokyo. While still a student, he submitted his short story "Toriko" to Kodansha's *Young Magazine*. The story won the Tetsuya Chiba Award for Rookie of the Year. His second story, "Curve," marked his official debut as a manga artist. In 1987, he graduated from college.

In 1990, he completed *Tropic of the Sea* (available in English from Vertical) and in 1991 he drew the manga adaptation of Katsuhiro Otomo's live-action film *World Apartment Horror*. That same year he attracted attention for his work as an animator on Hiroyuki Kitakubo's *Roujin Z*, and after assisting on various anime works in the 1990s he made his own directorial debut in 1997 with *Perfect Blue*. His second film, *Millennium Actress*, tied with Hayao Miyazaki's *Spirited Away* for the Grand Prize in the Japan Agency of Cultural Affairs Media Arts Festival and was followed by the film *Tokyo Godfathers* and the TV series *Paranoia Agent*. Kon's fourth and final completed movie, *Paprika*, was ranked by *Time* magazine as one of the 25 best animated films ever made. On August 25, 2010, Satoshi Kon passed away suddenly from pancreatic cancer.

SATOSHI KON'S

OPUS

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DESIGNER
SANDY TANAKA

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
MIKE RICHARDSON

English-language version produced by Dark Horse Comics

SATOSHI KON'S OPUS

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A LOST MANGA FROM ONE OF ANIME'S GREATEST DIRECTORS!

Satoshi Kon, director of *Paprika, Paranoia Agent, Tokyo Godfathers, Millennium Actress*, and *Perfect Blue*, died tragically young in 2010 at the age of 46. But before he began his anime career in the 1990s, he was one of Japan's most talented manga artists. *OPUS* is Kon's metafictional tale of Chikara Nagai, a creator under pressure to finish his latest graphic novel, *Resonance*, who finds that the harshest critic of the shock ending he's got planned is the character who'll have to die in it! Nagai's strengths and weaknesses as a creator are tested beyond their limits as his present and his past, and the worlds of the manga and of reality, become the levels of a maze he may never escape . . . let alone get a chance to resolve the story!

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